

## Golf Cart Safety

Because golf carts operate at relatively slow speeds, it's easy to overlook safety procedures. But golf cart accidents can cause serious injury and death.

Between 1992 and 2001, golf cart accidents caused an average of 739 nonfatal injuries annually that led to lost work-days, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. From 1994 to 2000, the Bureau reported an average of five deaths per year associated with golf carts.

Many carts lack safety features such as seat belts and air bags. That's why it's even more crucial to establish and follow safety rules. Managers should enforce the following rules and communicate proper operating procedures to all employees to ensure safe operation of golf carts:

- Limit cart use to authorized employees who have a valid driver's license.
- Provide cart operation safety training to all new employees.
- Never operate a cart under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Limit capacity of golf cart to specified design and restrictions (i.e., two passenger, four passenger, etc).
- Operate cart from driver side only.
- Keep hands and feet within cart at all times.
- Remain seated at all times when driving the cart - and make sure passengers stay seated at all times.
- Lock brake before exiting cart.
- Ensure that cart is at a complete stop before getting in and out.
- Operate carts in designated areas only.
- Drive over steep or uneven terrain with caution.
- Approach steep or uneven terrain vertically to avoid tipping over and sliding of cart.
- Avoid driving over wet or muddy surfaces.
- Slow down when approaching corners or speed bumps and on public roads.
- Slow down when driving on hills.
- Always turn to see behind cart while reversing and never try to go in reverse downhill.

- Drive defensively! Always be aware of your surroundings and keep your eyes on the path ahead of you.

Following these operating rules will help you avoid or minimize golf cart accidents. Use a written policy to communicate these rules to all employees - and make sure they understand the rationale for each guideline.

For further information and assistance, contact your Zenith Safety and Health Consultant.

Zenith provides workplace safety resources at: **TheZenith.com**<sup>®</sup>

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