

Valdosta State University Utility Cart Training

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Utility Cart Safety Overview

- Safety Devices
- Areas of Use
- Authorized Users
- Speed limits
- Intersections and crosswalks
- Pedestrians

Utility Cart Safety Overview

- Transporting loads
- Accidents
- Laws
- Maintenance and repairs
- Operator & Supervisor accountability
- Cart Id

Required Safety Devices

- Side and rearview mirrors
- Headlights
- Electric wipers
- Horn

Areas of Use

- ❑ Carts are to be driven on sidewalks and grassy areas of campus
- ❑ Carts are not allowed in roadways
 - ❑ Except to cross from one side to the other alongside marked cross walks

Authorized Users

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| ■ Regular Employees | YES |
| ■ Grad Students | YES |
| ■ Authorized Contractors | YES |
| ■ Undergrad employees | (Maybe) |
| ■ Visitors | NOPE! |

 Anyone using a utility cart **MUST** be trained **FIRST!!!**

 **NEVER** let an untrained person operate a cart!!

Speed Limits

- The speed limit for carts is 15 mph
- Operators must take conditions into account and drive slower under the following conditions:
 - slippery sidewalks or other surfaces;
 - heavy pedestrian traffic;
 - reduced visibility due to weather;
 - approaching intersections and/or blind spots.

Intersections and Crosswalks

- Come to a complete stop before:
 - crossing a roadway
 - proceeding through intersecting sidewalks
 - or areas with blind spots
- Cross roadways:
 - at pedestrian crosswalks,
 - by driving alongside the crosswalks,
 - NOT in the crosswalk,
- Obey crosswalk traffic signals



Pedestrians

- Cart operators must yield to pedestrians at all times...
- Operators must account for:
 - those who may be physically impaired
 - heavy traffic
- Never attempt to move pedestrians through intimidation
- If an operator can't predict the actions of a pedestrian, he/she must stop the cart

Other Considerations

- Never do anything that distracts you from operating the cart!
 - operating radios, iPods, Walkman's, etc
 - cell phones
 - eating, drinking
 - smoking
 - reading
 - rubbernecking

Other Considerations

- Do not park carts in a way that blocks:
 - emergency exits
 - doors
 - stairs
 - sidewalks
 - fire hydrants
 - fire lanes
 - handicap ramps

Other Considerations

- Passengers must never ride in the bed
- Keep bodies inside the cart
 - Except when using hand signals
- No horse play or reckless behavior

Laws

- Utility carts are unregistered motor vehicles and they are NOT permitted on roadways except at marked crosswalks
- Anyone driving on a roadway is personally subject to all applicable State of Georgia fines and penalties.
- Valdosta State University will not be responsible for such fines and penalties.
- Code Federal Regulation (CFR) defines motorized carts.

Categories of Motorized Carts:

- All Terrain Vehicles
- Class I ATV
- Class II ATV
- Low Speed Vehicles
- Golf Carts

Maintenance and Repairs

- Operators shall perform a pre-operational check:
 - Lights, brakes, back-up alarm, hazard light, horn, tire pressure...
- Refer to the owner's manual for more information...
- Individual departments are responsible for upkeep and general maintenance

Supervisor Accountability

- Ensure all operators receive training by Environmental and Occupational Safety
- Ensure operators review utility cart manual
- Ensure operators read Golf/Cart Utility Vehicle policy
 - <http://www.valdosta.edu/safety>
- Keep documentation to show this has been done
- Take disciplinary action against operators who fail to comply
- Comply with the Golf Cart/Utility Vehicle policy

Operator Accountability

- Operate carts in a responsible and safe manner
- Familiarize themselves with:
 - Utility cart owner's manual
 - Provisions of the Golf Cart/Utility Vehicle Policy
- Comply with provisions of the Golf Cart/Utility Vehicle policy

Transporting Loads

- Keep load inside the confines of the bed
 - To avoid catching load on outside obstacles or persons
- Be concerned with Load shifting
 - Consider different material types being transported
- Know where your center of gravity is
 - Where you normally travel safely empty; you may tip over with an unbalanced load

Cart Accidents

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

The young male driver of the cart shown here died when his vehicle was struck in the side by an SUV.



Cart Accidents



Cart Accidents



Utility Cart Identification

- All carts must display a unique numerical ID number
- Anyone observing reckless or inappropriate operation of a cart has a duty to notify the cart owner and/or operator's supervisor or Environmental and Occupational Safety

