

GOLF CART SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

The number of golf cart-related injuries has more than doubled during the past 17 years. As golf cart use migrates off the golf course into more nontraditional settings, such as residential neighborhoods, sporting events, hospitals, airports, national parks, college campuses, businesses, and military bases, it is likely that the number of golf cart-related injuries will continue to rise. The following recommendations will help keep both operators and passengers safe while they are using golf carts.

OPERATORS

1. Operate carts at reasonable speeds
2. Consider terrain and weather conditions while driving
3. Brake slowly, especially on downhill slopes
4. Avoid sharp turns
5. Wear seat belts when available
6. Limit passengers to adults and children six years of age and older
7. Operators should be at least 16 years old
8. Do not operate a cart after drinking alcohol

OWNERS

1. Don't make post-factory alterations
2. Never disable the golf cart's speed governor – this is illegal
3. Establish a regular maintenance schedule to keep the cart in good repair
4. Require operators to be at least 16 years of age

PASSENGERS

1. Keep both feet on the floor at all times
2. Keep arms and legs inside the cart
3. Sit back in the seat to take advantage of hip restraints
4. Wear seat belts when available
5. Be prepared to use the handgrip to prevent a fall
6. Cart should come to a complete stop before getting on or off the cart

FACILITIES

1. Require driver's license and safety/operations training prior to first use
2. Establish written safety policies
3. Consider safety in the design of pathways and landscapes where golf carts may be used

