



Safety Bulletin July 2025

Golf Cart Safety

Many agencies use golf carts as a means of transport at the worksite. May 10, 2025 - John Elway's longtime agent and friend tragically passed away after falling off the back of a golf cart in La Quinta, California. June 29, 2025 - Officials say a 39-year-old woman died after a golf cart accident Saturday night in Bell Township PA, Westmoreland County. June 16, 2025 - Comal County, Texas nine people were hospitalized, including children, after a golf cart crash. These are a few of the recent events involving the use of golf carts.

Golf cart safety involves operating the vehicle responsibly and being aware of potential hazards. Key aspects include avoiding distractions, operating at safe speeds, and being mindful of pedestrians and other vehicles. Always follow traffic laws, use hand signals, and yield the right-of-way. In California, golf carts are subject to both Cal/OSHA regulations and California DMV rules. While Cal/OSHA does not have a specific standard for golf carts as Powered Industrial Trucks, they can be cited under the General Duty Clause for unsafe use. Agencies should have a policy for the use of golf cart including proper training.

Golf carts are compact, efficient tools used to accomplish a variety of tasks for organizations. But they also carry serious risks if not managed carefully. From unauthorized use and accidents to property damage and pedestrian collisions, golf cart incidents can result in severe injuries, costly insurance claims, and legal action. Most golf cart injuries happen when someone is struck by, thrown from the vehicle, or involved in a rollover accident.



Here are some golf cart safety tips for the workplace.

Distracted Driving:

- Avoid using cell phones, eating, or engaging in other distracting activities while driving.

Speed Limits:

- Adhere to speed limits and reduce speed on inclines, turns, and in congested areas.

Pedestrian Safety:

- Always yield to pedestrians.

Hand Signals:

- Use hand signals to indicate turns, as golf cart turn signals may be limited.

Seatbelts:

- Wear seatbelts if available, and ensure all passengers are seated and secure.

Overloading:

- Do not exceed the number of passengers or weight limit specified for the golf cart.

Under the Influence:

- Never operate a golf cart under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any substance that impairs judgment or alertness.

Parking Brake:

- Always engage the parking brake when parked and remove the key.

Maintenance:

- Regularly inspect the golf cart for proper tire inflation, fluid levels, and brake function.

Specific Situations:

- Turns: Reduce speed before and during turns and avoid sharp turns at high speeds.
- Slopes: Drive straight up and down slopes to reduce the risk of tipping or rollovers.
- Wet Conditions: Exercise caution on wet or uneven terrain, as the cart may be more prone to skidding or tipping.
- Night Driving: Use headlights and taillights to increase visibility and be extra cautious in low-light conditions.
- Weather: Avoid driving during severe weather conditions like thunderstorms.
- Off-Road Use: Avoid driving on rough or uneven terrain that could cause the cart to tip.
- Children: Children should be supervised and properly restrained in a golf cart, and it is best to avoid letting them ride in golf carts altogether.

Other Important Considerations:

- Training: Ensure all drivers are trained on safe golf cart operation.
- Verify that your golf cart is insured.

Local Laws: Be aware of and comply with all local regulations regarding golf cart operation.

Alliant recently published a White paper on [Golf Cart Risks](#).

If you have any questions, contact the Director of Loss Control – Bob May at biem47@outlook.com or 760.221.8205.