

POWERED CART SAFETY

Powered carts provide safe transportation when used for intended purposes and operators are properly trained. Unsafe or unintended use can produce injuries to the cart occupants, other individuals in the immediate area, and property damage.

Establish a formal company policy to communicate policies and expectations for cart usage. Supervisors should be held accountable for making sure their direct reports follow the established safety rules for cart operation. Operational safety policies for employees include, but are not limited to the following:

- Train drivers prior to being allowed to operate a cart
- Operate carts only from the driver side
- Re-train drivers following any incident
- Prohibit drivers from operating a cart if under the influence of drugs or alcohol including over-the-counter medications
- Keep body parts (legs, feet, arms, and hands) within the cart
- Remain seated at all times while cart is in motion
- Stop completely before anyone gets in or out
- Lock brakes prior to exiting
- Limit cart occupants to manufacturer's specifications (do not overload)
- Prohibit standing on sides or back, all passengers must be seated prior to movement
- Operate in designated areas only and at safe speeds for the conditions
- Prohibit speed or racing contests as well as speeding that is unsafe for the conditions
- Reduce speed when approaching corners, speed bumps, uneven terrain or blind spots
- Reduce speed when driving on inclines
- Approach steep slopes or inclines directly, avoid angles that could cause cart to tip over
- Do not back down or drive in reverse on steep slopes
- Drive defensively. Always be aware of your surroundings and watch where you are driving.

Inspection Safety:

Powered carts need to be inspected according to manufacture specifications before each use. Carts not in proper working condition are to be immediately removed from service until conditions are corrected. Work performed on powered carts should be performed by qualified technicians. Any work by employees not qualified to perform necessary service or repairs should be forbidden.

Operational Safety:

Powered carts are designed to be used at low speeds and only for intended uses. Carts lack safety features such as seat belts, horns, air bags, and roll over protection as well as other devices intended for over the road travel. Unsafe operation or uses unintended for carts are to be strictly forbidden.

Sources: Texas Dept of Insurance, [Golf Cart Safety](#) - HS05-028B (09-10); University of Michigan, [Cart Safety](#), Aug 2013.