

## Golf Cart Safety

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### EH&S FACTSHEET

The University Of Massachusetts's Department of Environmental Health & Safety has developed this factsheet to provide employees and students who operate University owned golf carts with requirements for their safe use. The University requires anyone operating these vehicles to be trained on its safety and use, have a valid driver's license and be 18 years of age or older.

**Training** - Personnel who intend on using a golf cart must be trained on the safe operation and maintenance of the cart. Training must be provided by an experienced Golf Cart Operator who understands all aspects pertaining to the safe use and maintenance of the carts. Training content must include:

- Refueling or recharging procedures
- Securing the vehicle when not in use
- Specific safety equipment associated with the cart or low speed vehicles (LSV)
- Safe vehicle operation

**Prior to Use –**

- Inspect the vehicle for damage, fuel or battery leaks or unusual sounds
- Test the brakes to ensure they are functioning properly
- Test the parking brake to ensure it's working properly
- Adjust mirrors (if equipped)
- Test reverse and ensure back-up alarm is working

**Safe Operation** – Always follow these rules when operating a golf cart or LSV:

- **ONLY** carts that are registered by the state and are permitted to do so can be driven on roads
- Golf carts may only be driven on sidewalks and side roads. **Driving golf carts on Massachusetts Ave, North Pleasant Street, East Pleasant Street, Eastman Lane, Governors Drive, Commonwealth Avenue or University Drive is prohibited.**
- All other vehicles must stay on paths and sidewalks except for when crossing a road
- Do not overload the golf cart. One person per seat
- Wear the seatbelt if available
- Maintain low speeds when traveling around corners or downhill, golf carts can tip over
- Do not drive in a manner that could endanger yourself, passengers or cause damage to University Property
- Avoid speedbumps, road debris or other obstructions whenever possible
- If the vehicle is registered and is permitted to be driven on roads, obey all traffic rules and regulations
- Maintain slow speeds when traveling on sidewalks and path
- Always set the parking brake and remove the keys when exiting the cart
- Always yield to pedestrians and bicyclists
- Avoid sharp turns and approach blind corners with caution
- Keep arms, legs and feet inside the cart while in motion
- Use caution when driving over steep or uneven terrain
- Approach steep or uneven terrain vertically to avoid tipping over
- Do not attempt to alter the rpms, gear ratio or other settings
- Never allow others to ride on the back of a cart unless it is equipped with seats
- Never drive downhill in reverse
- In heavy pedestrian areas do not go faster than the speed of the pedestrians.
- **Never exceed 10 miles per hour** in light pedestrian areas.
- Never leave the keys in the golf cart when unattended
- Never attempt to pass another vehicle while driving a golf cart

**Failure in following these recommendations can result in property damage, serious injury or death**