

# WHY GOLF CART SAFETY IS IMPORTANT

Golf carts were designed primarily for transporting a person on a golf course. Recently, this has changed, and they can be utilized in planned communities, on a beach or on roads with speed limits of 35 mph or less during daylight hours.

The increased use has come with increase in golf cart related injuries. It is the relaxed approach to golf carts and their use that leads to thousands of serious golf cart injuries each year. Children account for one third of all injuries. Rollovers accounts for 10% of all accidents which result in the most serious injuries – over 15,000 per year.

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia conducted a 10-year nationwide study and found over 156,000 injuries during this period. Children ages 0 to 12 accounted for total injuries of 63,501. The median age of the injures is 11.75 years, mostly male, most are superficial injuries to the head and neck – fractures and dislocations are second.



"I think it's important that we raise awareness of the severity and types of injuries that golf carts pose to children, including pre-adolescents, so that great prevention measures can be instituted in the future," Dr. Theodore J. Ganley, director of CHOP's Sports Medicine and Performance Center and Chair of the AAP Section on Orthopedics.

Additional studies have been conducted by the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System and the EuroNCAP (European version of our National Highway Transportation System) and yielded similar results. The rate of brain injuries among children is almost 3 times the rate of adults. With an increase of 67% for children's injuries during the 10 study.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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## GOLF CART LAWS & REGULATIONS



**ONLY A  
LICENSED DRIVER  
MAY OPERATE  
A GOLF CART**

# TO UTILIZE A GOLF CART ON A PUBLIC ROADWAY

- Insurance – check with your insurance company to add a policy that covers your golf cart.
- If your golf cart has a **maximum speed of less than 25 miles per hour**, you must display a “slow moving vehicle” emblem on the rear of the cart and ensure it is clearly visible.
- Safety Equipment - headlamps, tail lamps, reflectors, a parking brake and rearview mirrors.
- Only a licensed driver may operate the golf cart.
- Operators of golf carts must adhere to the Rules of the Road as required by the Texas Transportation Code.
- Operators of golf carts must move to the right and yield right of way to vehicles moving at a faster speed.
- Golf carts are prohibited from pulling trailers.



## TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE CHAPTER 551 TEXAS STATE LAW (TC551.404)

A municipality may allow an operator to operate a golf cart on all or part of a public highway that:

- Is in the corporate boundaries of the municipality, and
- Has a posted speed limit of not more than 35 miles per hour.

## A GOLF CART OPERATED ON A PUBLIC ROADWAY MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT:

- **Headlamp**
- **Tail lamp**
- **Reflectors**
- **Parking brake**
- **Mirror**
- **Slow-moving vehicle emblem**

# 16 FUNDAMENTALS OF GOLF CART SAFETY

- Obey all traffic laws and rules of the road.
- Do Not drive under the influence or intoxicated.
- Avoid distractions while operating.
- Utilize seat belts.
- Only carry as many passengers as set by manufacturer.
- Yield to pedestrians and be aware of motor vehicles.
- Do not stand or ride on the back platform.
- Operate the vehicle only from the driver's side.
- Check blind spots before turning.
- Check behind golf cart before backing up.
- Avoid sharp turns at maximum speed.
- Reduce speed to driving condition.
- Do not leave keys in unattended golf cart.
- Make sure parking brake is set in an unattended golf cart.
- Do not let children drive.
- Use extreme caution in severe weather- it will NOT protect you from a lightning strike.

