



Golf Cart Safety

The CompWest Difference

CompWest customers are assigned a dedicated loss control consultant to identify and address loss trends while serving as a safety resource.

While there are no specific regulations governing the use of golf carts, in California employers have the general responsibility to provide a safe workplace and safe working conditions. This has been broadly interpreted in the past so employers with this type of exposure (country clubs, building maintenance, property managers, agriculture, etc.) should beware.

The following is a list of questions employees and supervisors alike should mentally review every time someone hops into a golf cart:

- Am I authorized to use this cart? Shortcuts are not allowed and saving time without proper training often results in unnecessary injuries.
- How many employees are allowed to ride on this cart? Is the load in the back exceeding the rated capacity? Never haul more employees or a heavier cargo than the cart can safely carry.
- Do all of the electrical and mechanical systems work on this cart? Check the horns, lights, back up alarms, tire pressure and brakes regularly — daily if used often — to ensure the cart is safe.

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- Does the seat belt work? Seat belts are the best way to minimize injury potential in the event of a rollover. Golf carts are notoriously unstable and seat belt should be worn at all times.
- Who has the right of way? Pedestrians always have the right of way. Obey all traffic laws as you would in a car. Stay to the right of the marked paths, remain seated until the cart comes to a complete stop, and never drive at top speed for long periods of time.

Other Key Parts of a Golf Cart Safety Program:

- Cars, trucks and other maintenance vehicles often can't see the carts coming down the road.
- Remain aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Avoid unsafe paths and refrain from showing off.
- Sound your horn at intersections and blind curves.
- Slow down when entering and exiting the cart barn.
- Avoid parking on hills and unstable surfaces.
- Set the parking brake and never leave the keys in the ignition.

Following these general safety rules should make everyone's golf cart safety program more effective!

The advice presented in this document is intended as general information for employers. See CompWestInsurance.com for the complete disclaimer/legal notice.

