

# Golf Cart Safety

It’s just a golf cart, so it’s probably safe—right? Not necessarily. Even a golf cart can seriously injure someone who is struck by one, thrown from one, or in one when it rolls over. Here are the safety-related questions you should ask:

## Is the golf cart safe to operate?

- Have I checked the fluids? Make sure the battery fluid isn’t leaking.
- Have I kicked the tires? And have I made sure they’re properly inflated and free of damage?
- Have I tested the controls? Will the cart go forward, backward, stop, and turn properly?
- Have I beeped the horn? Just to make sure it works, of course!

## Do I know how to safely operate the golf cart?

- Do I always make sure that all passengers remain seated while the cart is in gear?
- Do I always ensure that all passengers buckle up, if possible?
- Do I always obey posted speed limits?
- Do I always shift the cart out of gear and remove the keys before leaving it unattended?
- Do I always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians?
- Do I never transport more passengers than the cart has seats?
- Do I never operate a golf cart if I’m under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or any medication that can affect my alertness?
- Do I never tow loads unless my cart is equipped to do so?
- Do I never park my cart near hazardous materials?
- Do I never park my cart where it could block access to emergency equipment or building exits?



## Do I know when to go slow?

- Do I always operate the cart at less than 15 miles per hour (mph) when I’m off-road?
- Do I always slow down on slopes?
- Do I always slow down before a turn?
- Do I always slow down when passing through doorways?
- Do I always slow down in bad weather or poor visibility conditions?
- Do I always slow down when pedestrians are in the area?

## Do I know what a low-speed vehicle requires?

- If my vehicle can go faster than 20 mph but not faster than 25 mph, is it equipped with:
  - » Lights, including headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, taillamps, and reflex reflectors?
  - » Safety devices, including parking brakes, rearview mirrors, and a windshield?
  - » Seat belts?
  - » A vehicle identification number (VIN)?

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