

Public Employee Safety & Health Bulletin #29

ATTENTION: All Public Employers

June 2009

This bulletin is being issued in response to the high potential for injuries when Golf Cars, Personal Transport Vehicles (PTV) and Low-Speed Vehicles (LSV) are operated or maintained in an unsafe manner.



Improper operation/maintenance and lack of training in the proper use of Golf Cars, PTVs and LSVs, can result in operator/passenger ejection, vehicle rollover, serious injury or death.

The Office of Public Employees Occupational Safety & Health (OPEOSH) investigated a fatal accident involving a public employee riding as a passenger in a PTV. The passenger was ejected after the driver made an abrupt high-speed turn, causing the vehicle to overturn and land on top of the employee.

The use of Golf Cars, PTVs and LSVs is routine in New Jersey's public sector. Uses include transportation and utility vehicles on college campuses, high schools, building and grounds departments, golf courses, park maintenance and public works departments.

National statistics show a significant increase in the reported number of serious injuries and fatalities to operators and passengers of Golf Cars, PTVs and LSVs. The primary causes of these injuries/fatalities are operator/passenger ejection and rollover. These rollovers and ejections occur when the vehicles are operated in an unsafe manner such as making abrupt turns at excessive speeds, and traveling on steep grades.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z130.1-2004 "Golf Cars-Safety and Performance Specifications" and the National Golf Car Manufacturers' Association (NGCMA) publication Z135.1-2004 "Personal Transport Vehicles-Safety and Performance Specifications" provide for industry recommended practices for safe use and maintenance of these vehicles. These publications provide additional information to employers in order to ensure that these vehicles are being used in a safe manner and that only trained personnel are permitted to drive and service this equipment.

***Personal Transport Vehicles and Low-Speed Vehicles are similar to Golf Cars except they are not used for the purpose of playing the sport of golf.**

To Prevent Accidents and Injuries, Employers should:

- Follow all manufacturer's recommendations for the safe operation and servicing of these vehicles;
- Make no modifications to equipment unless authorized by the manufacturer;
- Make sure that all warning labels are intact and replaced if missing or defaced;
- Ensure all safe operating practices and laws that pertain to safe operation are followed;
- Provide initial training to all new operators prior to operation and annual refresher training in the safe use and operation of this equipment;
- Immediately remove all unsafe equipment from service; and
- Implement a written progressive disciplinary procedure for failure to adhere to the above enumerated recommendations.

SAFE WORK PRACTICES SAVE LIVES

Additional public employee safety and health information can be obtained from our websites:

http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lse/safetyhealth_index.html
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/peoshweb/>

For additional information concerning New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Program Contact:

**NJ Department of Labor &
Workforce Development
(800) 624-1644
(609) 292-7036**

**NJ Department of Health &
Senior Services
(609)-984-1863**