

EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

ARTICLE 3: Emergency Procedures

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-1-2016

SECTION 17: Utility-Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Use

REVISED DATE:

Purpose:

The purpose of this guideline is to promote the safe and effective use of an Utility-Terrain Vehicle (UTV) to reduce the risk of injury and financial loss. The use of the UTV can be utilized for medical responses in areas not accessible by apparatus, Medical Rescues, Medical Standby, Personnel and equipment transport on incidents, and incidents requiring the UTV. Any outside agency requests, use of the UTV must be approved by the Duty Chief.

Guideline:

Only district personnel who have successfully completed a district approved UTV safety and operation course may be allowed to operate the UTV. Operators will complete an annual refresher for UTV operators.

Operations:

- Prior to operation of the UTV a pre-use inspection should be conducted.
- *All drivers and passengers of the UTV shall wear required personal protective equipment (PPE) including approved DOT helmet.
- DOT helmets will be available for use, 2 sizes available for use. Proper fitting shall be completed prior to UTV use.
- Ensure load is balanced to maintain even weight distribution to prevent tipping.
- All drivers and passengers of the UTV shall wear seat belts or restraining devices at all times when UTV is being operated.
- UTV shall be operated at a safe speed based upon terrain and conditions.
- A risk assessment shall be completed prior to transverse steep slopes or rocky terrain, by the operator, based on their abilities and the UTV capabilities.
- When parking the UTV on an incline/decline, use tire chalk.
- Any injury or accident involving the UTV shall be reported per district policy.
- See manual for additional information, including weight limits.

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- The operator must follow the SIPDE process. SIPDE stands for:
 - **S – Sweep, Search, and Scan** : The operator must continually glance from side to side and scan the surrounding area for hazards that may affect the operator, the passengers, or the operation of the machine.
 - **I – Identify**: The operator must be able to identify whether an object, animal or situation poses a hazard to the operator, the passengers, or the operation of the UTV.
 - **P – Predict**: The operator must be able to predict whether the identified hazard will affect the operation of the machine, operator, or passengers. Specifically, the operator must predict the worst-case scenario and determine possible courses of action.
 - **D – Decide**: The operator must choose a safe course of action that will mitigate the hazard.
 - **E – Execute**: The operator must execute the mitigation.

**Helmets may not be required during some assignments, EDC Fair coverage, Fire/EMS standby or if approval by Company Officer.*

Loading and Transporting

- District trailer used for transporting UTV shall be properly connected to hitch with safety chains and wire plugged in.
- When securing UTV to trailer, put in park gear. A minimum of four tie-down straps will be used.
- If possible have someone to be a spotter when loading or unloading the UTV.

Transporting

All loads shall be properly secured to minimize center of gravity affects during transport.

- When transporting a patient a safe speed must be maintained at all times.
- If a patient cannot be safely transported in the UTV the use of an alternative method must be used.