

UTILITY VEHICLES

To stay safe, utility vehicle operators must understand the limitations of utility vehicles and how they differ from motor vehicles and forklifts.

Most injuries that occur because of a utility vehicle happen when:

- passengers are ejected
- there is a rollover incident
- a collision occurs with another vehicle, a stationary object, or a pedestrian
- passengers are getting into or out of the vehicle
- the driver loses control



- Do not put the utility vehicle in motion until all passengers are safely seated.
- When driving a utility vehicle, avoid excessive speed, sudden starts or stops, and fast turns. Stunt driving and horseplay are not permitted.
- Never operate a utility vehicle while under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any medication or other substance that may cause fatigue or affect alertness.
- Do not drive the utility vehicle with your left foot hanging outside of the vehicle.
- Avoid distractions while operating a utility vehicle. Be safe and attentive. Do not use a cell phone while operating a utility vehicle. Do not drive with an open beverage container or while wearing headphones.
- Everyone riding in the utility vehicle must remain seated while the vehicle is in motion, or about to start moving. Keep all body parts including hands, legs, and feet inside the utility vehicle while it is in motion.
- The number of passengers should never exceed the number of seats available.
- No one is allowed to ride while standing in the utility vehicle or on the back platform of the vehicle.
- Report accidents and damage to a supervisor as soon as possible, regardless of whether property damage or personal injury occurred.

Discussion

Image: 0002156 Manop Boonpeng/Shutterstock.com

Can you think of any more utility vehicle safety tips?

What should you do if the utility vehicle is damaged or not working properly?