Driving Safety
Off-Road Vehicles

Messiah College Department of Safety
I. Types of Vehicles
II. Cart Safety Guidelines
III. Use of Carts
   A. Pre-trip
   B. Operation
   C. Security
   D. Night Driving and Loads
IV. Review
Types of Utility Vehicles

- Golf Carts

- Gator Vehicles
Messiah College Guidelines for Use of Carts and Gators

• Applies to ALL operators of gas/electric powered Carts/Gators on Messiah College campus
• ALL users must have a current/valid driver’s license in possession
• Drivers must be 18 years of age or older
• All drivers must be trained in Cart/Gator operations
• ALL employees operating Carts/Gators must comply with all traffic laws
• Employees are responsible for understanding and complying with the manufacturer’s operating recommendations
Carts and Gators vs. Cars
What’s the difference?

- Carts and Gators will roll-over easily
- Carts and Gators almost always operate around pedestrians
Carts and Gators vs. Cars

- In a collision – Carts and Gators ALWAYS lose!
- Cars and other motor vehicles ALWAYS have the Right of Way.
Carts and Gators—Rules Of The Road Apply

- You must obey traffic signs and signals
- Pedestrians have the right-of-way
- You must obey campus speed limits
Are You A Defensive Driver?

Defensive driving applies to licensed vehicles, such as cars and trucks. It also applies to Carts and Gators.
What does this symbol mean?

READ ALL WARNING LABELS
WARNING: ROLLOVER OR FALLING OFF MAY CAUSE DEATH

WARNING: Riding in cargo bed can cause severe injury or death. Do not ride in cargo bed.
Pre-trip Check

- Check for obstacles or pedestrians around the vehicle
- Adjust mirrors
- Check lights & turn signals
- Be sure everything is properly secured
Pre-trip Check

• Conduct a visual check of the Cart or Gator before driving
• Do the brakes work?
• Check for correct tire pressure
Operating the Vehicle

- Always check behind the vehicle before backing
- No more occupants than the number of seats/seatbelts
- Keep hands and feet inside the vehicle
- Drive slow
- Avoid steep grades
Operating the Vehicle

Accelerator Pedal

Brake Pedal

Parking Brake
Cart Safety Guidelines

• Obey ALL traffic signs
• Do not exceed cart weight capacity
• Sudden stops or changes in direction may result in loss of control, or roll-over
• Keep hands and feet inside at all times when cart is moving
• Avoid tipping over – drive straight up or down a slope
• Always remain seated
• Slow down before and during turns
• Reduce speed, use extra care in inclement weather
Leaving the Vehicle Unattended

• Do not dismount vehicle before it has come to a complete stop
• Engage the brake
• Turn off the engine
• Take the key
Secure the Cart or Gator

- Remove Key
- Lock Doors
- Secure Steering Wheel
Night Driving

• Check the lights before driving at night

• When driving at night, does the cart have:
  – working headlights?
  – brake lights?
  – turn-signal?

• Drive cautious, pedestrians may not see you coming.
Carrying A Load

- Do not exceed load capacity
- Balance the load
- Secure the load
- Be sure you can see behind the vehicle
- Loads can change on steep grades
- No one rides in the back
Use Caution When Backing or Dumping A Load
When in doubt, Ask…

- About load capacity
- About operating procedures
- About maintenance records
Should you be driving?

• Are you tired, upset, fatigued, ill?
• Are you taking prescription or over-the-counter medication?
• Are you emotionally upset?

NOTE: No one is allowed to drive a Messiah College vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
Pedestrians

• Pedestrians have the right of way
• Avoid sidewalks when possible
• Drive slow
• Avoid heavy pedestrian traffic areas if possible
Just plain common sense…

• Always tie-down your load
• Always set your brake once you get to your destination
• After loading, check to see if all four wheels still touching the ground?
Review

• Pedestrians have Right of Way
• Know the vehicle you are driving.
• Be aware of your surroundings.
• Do not “horse around” with the vehicle
• Drive slow.
Whatever you drive…

- Do a pre-trip check
- Review how the vehicle operates BEFORE you turn it on
- Know your vehicle
- If something is broken, DON’T use it until it’s fixed!
- If you are not familiar with where you are going… Check a campus map before you get started
SAFETY FIRST

The whole idea is to get the job done without endangering yourself or others!
Off-Road Vehicle Training - Verification Form

______________ Date ______________ ID#

___________________________________ Printed Name

[ ] Student [ ] Employee

I, hereby, attest to the fact that I have completely reviewed this program information and verify that I will abide by all of its policies and procedures. Additionally, refer to the Vehicle Management Policy for specific guidelines.

________________________ Signature