

**Naval Support Activity Monterey /
Naval Postgraduate School**



SAFETY GRAM

29 September 2014

LOW-SPEED VEHICLES

Purpose:

Certain risks and hazards are inherent when operating a motor vehicle of any sort, however, unique challenges are presented to those driving and/or riding in Low-Speed Vehicles (LSV's). The purpose of this Safety Gram is to provide guidance to supervisors and employees that operate LSV's.

Background:

Recently, a Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard employee passed away after months of suffering from severe head injuries. The employee sustained his injuries after he was ejected from an electric LSV (similar to those utilized here at NSA Monterey) due to the lack of proper safety equipment (seat belts). Closer to home, a near-miss catastrophic event was narrowly avoided at Glasgow Hall as the driver of a gas-powered LSV traveling at a relatively high rate of speed nearly collided with a pedestrian exiting a passageway.



LSV's are low visibility vehicles, which typically operate at speeds no greater than 25 miles per hour, and offer no occupant protection in a collision. Golf carts are not classified as an LSV. Golf carts are motorized carts designed for transporting persons playing golf and their equipment on a golf course. These vehicles typically don't exceed 15-20 miles per hour. LSV's are a convenient and sometimes necessary way to travel around the campus of the Naval Postgraduate School where available parking is in demand.

Scope and Applicability:

The provisions of this document shall apply to NPS/NSA Monterey federal civilian employees and military employees who have been given the privilege to operate LSV's while on duty.

Basic Safety Requirements:

- All vehicles shall meet manufacturer safety requirements and federal, state, and local safety requirements regarding safety equipment such as windshields, exterior mirrors mounted on driver and passenger side of the vehicle, head lamps, tail lamps, brake lamps, emergency flashers and turn signals, reflectors, parking brake, safety belts, vehicle identification numbers, and audible warning device.
- LSV's shall be inspected daily, or in the event there are multiple operators, prior to each use to ensure all systems are in proper working condition. If any safety features are inoperable the cart shall be taken out of service until repaired.
- Do not take LSV's where they are not intended to go: over rough terrain or through standing water.
- LSV's shall only transport the number of people it was designed to hold. Personnel shall not ride in cargo compartments. Personnel shall be seated properly, extremities remaining within the vehicle at

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all times, and have seatbelts secured at all times. Personnel shall not overload the vehicle, or be transported in a standing position.

- LSV operators shall obey all traffic markings and laws.
- No one is permitted to remove any safety devices that are/were included with the LSV at time of purchase/receipt. The equipment shall not be operated in this instance, until appropriate repairs/replacement is made.
- LSV's shall not be used off base. This equipment is not approved for use on roads where commercial and private vehicular traffic is not controlled.
- Personnel shall be trained on the proper use, inspection and maintenance of LSV's prior to operation. Training shall be documented.

Speed: Like regular vehicles, LSV's have a maximum speed, but it is not expected that you always drive at the maximum speed. Learn the speed limits in the areas where you are driving and use your best judgment. Like regular cars, adverse conditions will affect your speed limit. If it is raining or the ground is icy, reducing your speed will give you better control and handling of your low-speed vehicle. Reducing your speed when making sharp turns or when carrying a heavy load is also a good safety habit.



Look, Listen, and Drive

Look around and be aware of driving signs and warnings -- even if they are meant for regular vehicles. These signs are designed to make your drive easier, regardless of what type of vehicle you are operating. Being aware of speed limits, dips, speed bumps, and other driving warnings will keep you safe, and it will help you avoid undue wear on your vehicle.

Listen for warnings and other things that might affect your driving -- emergency vehicle sirens, pedestrians, other vehicles, etc... Overall, being aware of your surroundings while driving allows you to anticipate and respond appropriately to obstructions or other interferences.

Additional Safety Tips

- Be extra vigilant at intersections.
- Use the vehicle as it is intended, not as a toy, and not for joyriding.
- Maintenance: Keeping your vehicle in good health is another way to reduce accidents. Make sure that your tires are inflated and your batteries are properly charged.

