

UTILITY VEHICLE

Code of Safe Practices

This document addresses the use of four and six-wheel Utility Vehicles (UTVs), commonly known as “Gators,” “Mules,” etc. **No All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) should be used on set unless specifically scripted for filming activity.** If you have or need additional information on this matter, please contact your Production Safety Representative.

1. The use of UTVs should be restricted to locations with rugged terrain. When possible standard utility vehicles and golfcarts should be used in non-rugged terrain areas.
2. All operators should possess a valid driver’s license. No one under the age of eighteen (18) should operate the UTV at any time.
3. Safe operation of the vehicle is the responsibility of the operator.
4. All operators must be trained in the use of the vehicle before performing work activities. Department heads should provide or assign training. Trainers must have been operating UTVs in a workplace for over a year. If you require additional training, please contact your Production Safety Representative.
5. The use of a UTV on highways or public roads is prohibited except on a public road that is dedicated to production use and closed to outside traffic. As UTVs are designed for off-road use, any operation on paved surfaces should be at very slow speeds with no sudden stops or turns.
6. It is prohibited to operate an UTV while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any substance that could potentially impair the operator.
7. All operators should read and understand the manufacturer’s operator manual and all safety decals prior to UTV operation.
8. The operator should inspect the UTV prior to operation to ensure that it is in safe working condition and that all safety devices are in place and functioning properly.
9. Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as helmets, goggles, etc., may be necessary for operators and passengers in certain conditions (e.g. eye and body protection in areas with heavy brush).
10. Passengers are only permitted to ride in seats designed for that purpose with only one person per seat. Riding on any other part of the vehicle is prohibited.
11. Seat belts should be worn by the operator and passenger(s) during vehicle operation. Passengers should use the hand holds for greater stability.
12. Operators should be seated in the driver’s seat with the parking brake locked prior to starting the UTV.

13. UTVs should be driven slowly and turns should be smooth. Horseplay, reckless driving, and/or recreational driving of UTVs is prohibited. UTVs are to be used for work activities only.
14. Pedestrians should be given the right-of-way at all times.
15. Transporting material that is too large or exceeds the rated capacity of the UTV is prohibited. Loads in the cargo box should not be stacked higher than the seat back and potentially unstable loads must be properly secured.
16. It is prohibited to operate an UTV with the cargo box raised.
17. If an UTV is used to tow a trailer, cart, equipment, or another vehicle, no passengers are permitted in the towed vehicle.
18. Do not tow a load that exceeds the maximum allowable towing load for the vehicle as specified in the operator's manual. To provide adequate braking ability and traction, the weight of the towed load (trailer and cargo) should never exceed the vehicle payload (operator / passenger and cargo box load). Many UTVs require the cargo box to be loaded when towing loads. Ensure that all manufacturer's specific towing requirements for the UTV are in place prior to towing.
19. Operators and passengers should keep both feet inside the vehicle during operation. All personnel must keep hands, feet, clothing, jewelry, long hair, etc. away from any of the UTV's moving parts.
20. The operator should ensure the engine is kept clear of combustible or flammable debris.
21. Caution should be exercised when driving UTVs through water as both engine operation and traction can be impacted. Depths in excess of 6 inches are considered "deep water" and should be avoided while operating UTVs.
22. Caution and reduced speed should be employed when making turns and driving on slopes or rough ground. This is especially important when driving downhill as UTVs can "freewheel" going down a slope.
23. Once the UTV is stopped, the operator should set the parking brake, turn off the engine, and remove the key.
24. The fuel cap should not be removed and no fuel should be added while the engine is running or hot. The engine should be shut off and allowed to adequately cool before refueling.
25. Modifications or alterations to the UTV not specifically authorized by the manufacturer are prohibited.
26. Only qualified personnel should perform maintenance on UTVs.
27. During all maintenance activities on UTVs, employees should ensure that the parking brake is engaged, power sources are disconnected, and that any parts of the vehicle that are raised is properly secured. Appropriate protective equipment such as eyewear, gloves, etc., should be worn while performing maintenance activities.