Alternative Vehicle Safety
Introduction

• The University of TN has a written safety plan for alternative vehicles.

• This self-study program is based on that document.

• What you will learn
  • What are alternative vehicles?
  • Unique hazards
  • Registration requirement
  • Operational requirements and best practices
  • Accident reporting
Introduction

Who are we interested in protecting with this training?

• Drivers (Standard and Alt. Vehicle)
• Passengers
• Pedestrians
What are Alternative Vehicles?

- Alternative vehicles are designed primarily for transportation and secondarily for hauling light loads.
Other Names for Alternative Vehicles

- Golf Carts
- Utility Vehicles
- 4-wheelers
- Carts
- Gators, Mules
What is Not Considered an Alternative Vehicle?

• The following *are not* alternative vehicles:
  • Forklifts
  • Riding lawn mowers
  • Front end loaders
  • Tractors
  • Other equipment that has another primary purpose such as mowing, digging, lifting, etc.
Advantages of Alternative Vehicles

- Easy to park
- Efficient
- Low cost relative to trucks or sedans
- Fun to operate
- Quiet
Compared to Std. Vehicles…

- Smaller size – not as visible as full-size vehicles
- Most aren’t registered with the Dept. of Motor Vehicles
- Not as fast as full-size vehicles
Registration

• All alternative vehicles on campus must be registered with Parking and Transit Services

• Registration form is available at:
  http://parking.utk.edu/permits/

• An example of the sticker is shown below and must be placed on the driver side front fender
Registration

• Note the location of the registration sticker
General Requirements for Operators

• Minimum age 18

• Possess a valid driver’s license

• Know and adhere to the State of Tennessee Motor Vehicle Laws.
General Requirements for Operators

• If you are unsure of how to operate an alternative vehicle, please notify your supervisor.

• All alternative vehicle operators should have demonstrated skills to their supervisor.

*It is ok to ask for help.*
Operation of Alternative Vehicles

• Shall not interfere with normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic flow

• Always travel at least six feet away from buildings

• Stunt driving/horseplay is prohibited
Speed Limit

- Obey posted limits

- Reduce to “walking speed” on walkways during heavy pedestrian traffic

- Adjust speed based on weather, terrain, visibility, traffic, pedestrians, etc.
Operation

• Alternative vehicles that are not registered (no license plate) with the TN Department of Motor Vehicles can only be operated on campus roads.

• They can not be driven on state highways such as Neyland Drive, Cumberland Avenue, or the Alcoa Highway.

http://www.utk.edu/maps/
Intersections and Crosswalks

• When the vehicle is crossing the road, the operator must abide by the rules of the road. When making turns, the operator must signal using either a mechanical/light turning signal or an arm turning signal.

• Obey all traffic signals. Operators must look in all directions prior to entering the intersections and crossing.

• Slow down before and during turns. All turns shall be executed at reduced speeds.
Hand Signals

Don’t “keep them guessing”.

Use hand signals to indicated your intended actions.

LEFT TURN  RIGHT TURN  STOP OR SLOW
Pedestrians…

• May not be able to hear or see your vehicle

• Have the right of way

• May be unpredictable

Do not try to intimidate pedestrians
Parking

Do not park in any of the following locations:

- within 6 feet of the entrance/exit of any building, except at loading docks
- at fire hydrants
- reserved parking spaces
- handicapped parking spaces
- fire lanes
Parking

• Make sure to set the parking brake when leaving the vehicle
Cargo

• Do not exceed load rating of vehicle

• Maneuverability and safe operation must be maintained

• Cargo must be loaded and secured so they will not cause a hazard by shifting or falling off the vehicle
Cargo

• Top heavy equipment is especially dangerous and should be secured near the center of the vehicle to avoid tipping. Be extremely careful during turning maneuvers.

• Cargo must not extend more than one foot from either side or the front of a utility vehicle.

• Loads that extend more than three feet from the rear of the vehicle must be flagged with a brightly colored material, usually red or orange.
Operator Safety

- Operators or passengers shall not jump on or off vehicles in motion.

- No passengers will be permitted on alternative vehicles unless provided with adequate seating. No one is permitted to ride on the running boards, fenders, or any part of the vehicle except the seats.

- Always remain seated and hold on while vehicle is in motion.

- Operators must wear seatbelts if the vehicle is equipped with such.
Operator Safety

• Operators and passengers of 2-wheeled vehicles must wear helmets when driving. Helmet must be approved.

• Operators may not wear headsets or ear protection at any time while operating alternative vehicles.

• Cell phone usage by the driver is prohibited while in motion.
Operator Safety

- Operators shall not stop (park) in the middle of roads or walkways.

- DO NOT leave keys in unattended vehicles.
Vehicle Maintenance & Inspection

• Vehicles must be inspected and maintained in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations.

• Vehicles that are unsafe to operate (e.g. brake failure) shall be taken out of service and secured to prevent use until repairs are completed.

• Operator must report problems immediately to his/her supervisor.
Pre-Trip Inspection

• Check the following before operating each day:
  • Horn, lights, turn signal
  • Tires (visual)
  • Mirrors
  • Controls, brakes, accelerator
  • General appearance (is anything damaged?)
Refueling and Recharging

- Re-fueling must be completed outdoors, away from any sources of ignition, and least 50 feet from building ventilation air-intakes.

- Smoking is prohibited when the vehicle is being re-fueled and within 15 feet of vehicles where battery charging is in progress.

  battery charging can generate highly flammable hydrogen gas
Accidents

All accidents involving an alternative vehicle must be reported immediately to:

University of Tennessee Police Department

and

The department to which the vehicle belongs
Remember

• Alternative vehicles may not be seen or heard by other motorists – always drive defensively.

• Horseplay and stunt driving can result in serious accidents.

• Follow the rules of road when operating an alternative vehicle.

• Not following the rules may result in disciplinary action.
What to do next…

• Take the quiz associated with this self-study program.

• You will also be asked to read the UT Alternative Vehicle Plan and sign a Safety Assurance form.

The form is located in the written plan
Resources/References

• Alt Vehicle Plan & Assurance Form
ehs.utk.edu
(Safety Manual † Alt. Vehicles)

• Driver’s License and Driver’s License Manual
http://www.tn.gov/safety/driverservices.shtml

• Use of off-highway motor vehicles on highways
(Tennessee Code Annotated Title 55 Chapter 8.55-8-185)
Good luck and be safe!