

## THE ISSUE: GOLF CART SAFETY

*A four-year-old drives off in an unattended golf cart and runs down two people.*

Six high-school-aged occupants of a golf cart are injured when they tip the cart while negotiating a sharp turn. The cart was overloaded; the driver was unlicensed.

*A tournament director driving a cart yells "watch out" to a pedestrian. The woman doesn't hear and the driver runs into her. The result – a broken arm severe enough to be the 8<sup>th</sup> most expensive claim paid from 1994 to 2004.*



Golf carts may look like they're all fun – but they pose a serious risk for both occupants and pedestrians.

### REDUCE THE RISK!

- Drivers should be limited to drivers with valid driver's licenses.
- Authorize specific members of your organization as drivers and limit all driving to just these people.
- Observe the passenger limit – two people in two-person carts, four in four-person carts.
- All golf carts should have seat belts for every occupant and the seat belts should be used!
- Occupants should remain seated with hands, arms, feet and legs inside the cart.
- Never allow passengers to stand on the rear of the golf cart.
- The maximum speed depends on the terrain, weather conditions and total weight of the cart, its passenger and any equipment being carried. Operate a golf cart at a speed equivalent to a quick walking pace. Take extra care on hills, wet turf, loose surfaces or rough terrain.
- Avoid tipping by driving slowly through turns and driving straight and slowly up and down slopes. DO NOT drive on the diagonal on a slope.
- Always give pedestrians the right of way.
- Golf carts do not provide protection from lightning. Seek appropriate shelter.
- When not in use, place the golf cart in "neutral" and remove the key. Secure it with a cable and lock or some other secure locking mechanism.
- After dark, use only carts with headlights, tail lights, turn signals and windshields.
- **No joyriding!**

Also, be aware that an event facility may have rules concerning who can drive a golf cart, where it can be driven and where it can be parked. Check with the host facility; know and follow their rules.