

	Fire District #1	GOG #:	29
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Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV)

1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of this GOG is to set standards for the use, operation and minimum training requirements for Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs).

2. **Scope:**

All district members operating any UTV.

3. **Prerequisites:**

4. **Responsibilities:**

5. **Procedure:**

A. **Outline:**

1. This GOG will outline specific requirements for the operation of UTVs, to include towing the vehicles to an incident. These guidelines are to be strictly enforced for the safety and well-being of the public and all district firefighters operating on the scene of incidents.

B. **Introduction:**

1. The ability to safely and efficiently operate UTVs requires a combination of sound thinking, common sense, training and strict adherence to written guidelines and policies. The use of UTVs provides an important tool to assist district members in accessing areas that are not normally accessible by traditional vehicles. Having access to these areas allows for remote firefighting capabilities, providing timely treatment of injured people and creating a more efficient incident scene through the transportation of

personnel and equipment. Fire district members understanding the limitations and inherent hazards of UTVs minimizes the risk of injury or damage.

C. Guidelines:

1. *UTV Response*

- a. UTV's will towed to the incident scene and shall not respond on roadways
- b. UTV will be towed with fire district vehicle.
- c. The tow vehicle shall be capable of safely towing the UTV trailer, weight, size and correct receiver and hitch size and rating must be confirmed.
- d. The driver of the tow vehicle shall confirm that the connection of the tow vehicle to the trailer is correct. This shall include proper seating of tow ball or pintle hook, the locking lever is properly engaged and the safety pin is in place, the electrical connection is in place and operating and the safety chains are attached.
- e. The UTV must be secured to the trailer through the use of locks and or straps. The UTV trailer will not be moved without the strapping or locks being engaged.
- f. Driver shall take a brief walk around the trailer prior to departing ensuring the trailer lights are working. It is recommended the hazards are used to ensure trailer lights are functional.
- g. The UTV will be towed to the incident scene in a safe and controlled manner in accordance with GOG 1.
- h. Unless the trailer is designed to allow loading and unloading without the tow vehicle connected, the trailer must remain connected to the tow vehicle when the UTVs is unloaded from the trailer. All personnel operating on or around streets shall wear an approved traffic vest.

2. *UTV Operation*

- a. When starting up the UTV the operator shall assure that the UTV is in working order, equipment is secured and is safe to operate.
- b. All personnel riding in the UTV shall be seated and have seat belts fastened
- c. Doors and or netting shall be secured in place
- d. All personnel riding in the UTV shall have approved helmets, eye protection, gloves. Structural fire helmets are not recommended.
- e. Depending on the incident, all personnel riding in the UTV shall wear turnout gear, brush coat or traffic vest.
- f. If the UTV has a water tank and the UTV will be transporting a patient, the water tank shall be drained.
- g. The UTV shall be operated in a safe manner at all times, the operator must consider the terrain and know the limitations of the UTV
- h. UTV shall not be submerged in water

- i. Emergency and scene lighting shall be used when the UTV is operated. Note-emergency light will be shut off if dictated by the incident required.
- j. All personnel operating with the UTV shall have a portable radio

3. **UTV Maintenance**

- a. Upon completion of incident the UTV shall be placed back in service and prepared for the next response, this includes:
 - b. Checking and adding fuel
 - c. Checking and adding oil (if needed)
 - d. Checking fluid levels in fire pump
 - e. Refilling water tank (if applicable)
 - f. Inspecting tires and suspension

4. **Training**

All personnel operating and towing UTVs shall receive training approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners. Training shall include the following:

- Understanding the use and limitations of a UTV
- Identifying risks/preplanning
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Safety
- Maintenance
- Trailer operations
- Hands on skills course