

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

Standard Operating Procedures

90.11.05
UTV USE



Adopted: 11/21/19
Reviewed: 11/09/22
Revised: 11/09/22

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Rahn".

Purpose: To establish guidelines and provide procedures for the safe operation, training, care and use of the District's Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) by members of the Fire District. The UTV is a special method of response and may be used to perform rescue services, special event, and public education support, and as needed by the District.

References: USDA Utility-Terrain Vehicle Operator Training Course: Instructor's Guide
The Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA)
Rider Safety & Training – Polaris
NFPA 1901 Chapter 26 Trailers

Procedure:

1. Vehicle Operations:

- a) Drivers in training shall complete a vehicle orientation and show competency operating the vehicle on and off road to SCFD 8 Training Division and be certified prior to incident operation and non-emergency events.
- b) UTV deployment will be at the discretion of a line officer or 820.
- c) UTV non-emergency and special events use will be approved by the Assistant Chief.
- d) All drivers will be at least 18 years of age and hold a valid driver's license.
- e) UTV will be operated in accordance with the UTV operations manual.
- f) Drivers will utilize due regard when operating on or off-road.
- g) Drivers will maintain an appropriate speed in relation to terrain conditions.
- h) UTV shall be operated with a minimum of two personnel and no more than three personnel in the cab. An additional two personnel may ride in the bed when the rumble seat is properly installed. Operator will be signed off to operate the UTV. Any personnel not riding in the UTV will be alongside the apparatus - never in front or behind.
- i) A risk assessment shall be completed by the operator prior to traversing steep slopes or rocky terrain. A go or no-go decision shall be based upon their abilities and the ATV's load and capabilities.
S= SCAN THE TERRAIN AND ENVIRONMENT
I= IDENTIFY HAZARDS OR SPECIFIC PROBLEM WITHIN YOUR PATH
P= PREDICT WHAT MAY HAPPEN AND THINK OF THE CONSEQUENCES
D= DECIDE WHAT TO DO BASED THE CAPABILITIES OF YOUR ATV
E= EXECUTE YOUR DECISION
- j) Seat belts must be worn and door safety net secured when the vehicle is in motion.

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- k) Only one driver and two secured passengers are allowed in the cab while it is in motion (Patient secured in the rear of the UTV is acceptable). Two additional may ride in the bed when rumble seat is utilized.
 - l) During operations, PPE shall be worn at all times. PPE will include:
 - i. When riding in cab, no helmet is needed (RCW 46.09.470(3)(a). DOT (Department of Transportation) approved helmet and eye protection available to wear when riding outside of the enclosed passenger compartment and when it does not hinder patient care. DOT approved helmets bear a U.S. Department of Transportation label.
 - ii. Gloves for comfort and protection from sun, cold weather, and other elements.
 - iii. Over-the-ankle boots (wildland, duty, structure).
 - iv. Long pants (wildland, duty, structure).
 - v. Long sleeves (wildland or turnout).
 - m) Vehicle will be in Park ("P") before exiting.
 - n) All loads shall be properly mounted with weight not to affect the UTV's center of gravity. Under no circumstances shall any load exceed the manufacturer's recommendations.
 - o) Winch Use:
 - i. The winch shall be used per manufacturer's recommendation
 - ii. The winch shall not be used for direct patient rescue
 - iii. All drivers/operators shall annually train on winch use and techniques.
2. Towing:
- a) Drivers in training must complete a trailer orientation session and show competency operating the vehicle and trailer to SCFD 8 Training Division and be certified prior to incident and non-emergency operation.
 - b) Support and command vehicles capable of towing the UTV will meet all towing requirements based on Gross Vehicle Weight and braking capabilities as provided by the manufacturers of the UTV and the tow vehicle.
 - c) Trailer light connection, safety chain connection, and verifying vehicle is properly secured to the trailer will be performed prior to towing. (four (4) strap connection to UTV).
 - d) The total UTV weight shall not exceed the maximum rated trailer capacity, and the weight of the tow vehicle, UTV, and trailer shall not exceed the tow vehicle's maximum gross combined weight rating (GCWR)

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3. Patient Transportation:

- a) UTV may be used to move patients from an emergency scene in circumstances deemed necessary by the Incident Commander. Use of UTV should only be when other options are not available or present a hazard to members or patient.
- b) When transporting a patient, the patient shall be secured to the UTV by use of provided seatbelts (in main cab only) or patient securing devices.
- c) Operators must complete training on patient packaging.
- d) A patient shall never be secured to the back of the UTV without direct supervision of EMS or Fire District personnel.
- e) Manufacturer recommended weight limit shall not be exceeded and consideration of vehicle dynamics when loaded should be considered.

4. Public Education/Engagement:

- a) The UTV may be used for community and public education/engagement events.
- b) Only District members shall be allowed to operate and ride in the UTV.
- c) When at a community or public education/engagement event, wheel chocks shall be used.
- d) District members shall not leave the UTV unattended during public education/engagement events unless emergency circumstances exist.

5. Deployment:

- a) The 820, or with 820 authorization, the Incident Commander may contact Dispatch and request UTV 82 to respond.
- b) Qualified members will respond and select an appropriate tow vehicle pursuant to 2 (b) of this procedure.
- c) The vehicle and trailer will respond as UTV 82.