



Laguna Woods Village®

# SECURITY BULLETIN

JUNE 2018

**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018**

**MANDATORY DECALS:**

- GRF year decal on window.
- Numbered golf cart decal.

**OPTIONAL DECALS:**

- Red decal for Golf Course access (small decal placed on the lower right corner of the golf cart).
- Color decal for every golf cart using common area electricity. Decals are Mutual specific: United Mutual is a yellow decal and Third Mutual is a green decal.

**ANY GOLF CART PLUGGED INTO A COMMON ELECTRICAL OUTLET ABSENT A DECAL WILL BE FINED.**



by Security Chief Tim Moy

Contact the Chief at [chief@vmsinc.org](mailto:chief@vmsinc.org)



More than 1,300 golf carts are registered in Laguna Woods Village and this number is on the rise. Golf carts are used for many more purposes in addition to transporting golfers around a course. With full road access within the community and limited sidewalk access outside the community, golf carts are a convenient, energy efficient and environmentally friendly mode of transportation. However, the frequent use of golf carts in and around the Village also comes with risks and limitations.

The City of Laguna Woods Municipal Code allows Residents to drive golf carts on the sidewalks and cross streets within the City. However, the City of Laguna Hills does not have such an ordinance. Golf carts are not allowed to be driven to the Five Lagunas Mall or Saddleback Hospital, which are within the City of Laguna Hills.

The following factors must be considered when driving a golf cart on roadways, paths or sidewalks:

- If your golf cart is equipped with a seat belt, use it! Seat belts save lives and could keep you from falling out in the event of an accident. If your golf cart is not equipped with seat belts, consider getting them installed.
- Outside the Village within the City of Laguna Woods, stay on designated sidewalks authorizing golf cart use. Do not drive golf carts on roadways unless crossing at an intersection controlled by traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Never drive intoxicated or under the influence of any medication. The rules of driving under the influence are the same for golf carts as for motor vehicles.
- Obey all traffic laws and rules of the road. Avoid distractions and be alert of your surroundings. Remember, you are sharing the road with drivers of larger vehicles who might not be watching for golf carts.
- Slow down and use extreme caution during turns, blind corners, parking lots and intersections.
- Do not text and drive! Pull over and stop if cell phone use is necessary.
- Always yield to pedestrians.
- Drivers and all passengers should keep all limbs (arms, legs and feet) inside the golf cart while the vehicle is moving, except when signaling a turn.
- Always turn and look behind golf cart before backing up.
- Drive only as fast as conditions allow. Reduce speed when driving down hills, during inclement weather, on wet roadways or when visibility is limited.
- Watch for potholes, dips and uneven surfaces.
- When parked, keep your charger at least six inches off the ground and never leave your extension cord unattended.

# DIFFERENT RULES FOR GOLF CARTS AND GOLF CARS

## GOLF CART:

The California Department of Motor Vehicles does not require that golf carts be registered if they are only used within a mile of your home. Brake lights and turn signals are not required, although it is highly recommended that you have a street-ready vehicle if you are planning to primarily drive it on public roads.

However, it is important to note that, according to California state law, golf carts may only be driven on roads with a speed limit of 25 mph or less. This eliminates many thoroughfares within the state.

## GOLF CAR:

The California Department of Motor Vehicles does require that golf cars be registered. These low-speed vehicles are also expected to have some of the street-ready safety features common in regular cars, such as brake lights and turn signals.

According to California state law, golf cars (which are also referred to as neighborhood electric vehicles or low-speed vehicles), are limited to roads with a posted speed limit of 35 mph.



For more information on California Vehicle Code requirements and other motor vehicle laws pertaining to the use of golf carts and low-speed vehicles, please contact the California Department of Motor Vehicles at 800-777-0133/TTY 800-368-4327 or [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) or private legal counsel.