

**Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Rescue - Standard Operating Guidelines**

Category: Operations	<b>SOG 3.8</b>
Approved: 11-5-14	<b>Title: Utility-Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Operation</b>

**3.8.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this guideline is to promote the safe and effective use of a Utility-Terrain Vehicle (UTV) to reduce the risk of injury and financial loss.

**3.8.2 Qualifications**

Only PAVFR members who have successfully completed a department approved UTV safety and operation course may be allowed to operate the UTV.

**3.8.3 Guidelines**

All operators of the PAVFR UTV shall comply with the PAVFR Standard Operating Guideline 3.6 for emergency vehicle operations adopted 12/4/12.

**3.8.4 Operations**

- 3.8.4.1 Prior to operation of the UTV a pre-use inspection should be conducted.
- 3.8.4.2 All drivers and passengers of the UTV shall wear required personal protective equipment (PPE) including approved helmet.
- 3.8.4.3 Ensure load is balanced front and back, to maintain even weight distribution to prevent tipping.
- 3.8.4.4 All drivers and passengers of the UTV shall wear seat belts or restraining devices at all times when UTV is being operated.
- 3.8.4.5 The UTV engine shall remain running at all times during an incident.
- 3.8.4.6 When parking the UTV on an incline/decline, ensure that blocking of the wheels is accomplished to prevent possible runaway.
- 3.8.4.7 Any injury or accident involving the UTV shall be reported per PAVFR department policy.
- 3.8.4.8 A post-use inspection and inventory of UTV equipment shall be done immediately upon return of UTV to station following an incident.
- 3.8.4.9 The operator must follow the SIPDE process (a system taught in driver education classes.) SIPDE stands for:

- **S – Sweep, Search, and Scan :** The operator must continually glance from side to side and scan the surrounding area for hazards that may affect the operator, the passengers, or the operation of the machine.
- **I – Identify:** The operator must be able to identify whether an object, animal or situation poses a hazard to the operator, the passengers, or the operation of the UTV.
- **P – Predict:** The operator must be able to predict whether the identified hazard will affect the operation of the machine, operator, or passengers. Specifically, the operator must predict the worst-case scenario and determine possible courses of action.
- **D – Decide:** The operator must choose a safe course of action that will mitigate the hazard.
- **E – Execute:** The operator must execute the mitigation.

### 3.8.5 Loading and Transporting

3.8.5.1 Trailer used for transporting UTV shall be in good condition and have the proper gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), the trailer's maximum allowable weight when loaded.

3.8.5.2 When securing UTV to trailer, put in gear and apply parking brake. A minimum of four tie-down straps will be used.

3.8.5.3 Wear appropriate PPE and ask someone to be a spotter when loading or unloading the UTV.