

VEHICLE USE

Although trucks, forklifts, all-terrain vehicles, golf carts, tractors and other transport vehicles serve a vital function for the fair, care needs to be taken to ensure the safe and legal operation of the equipment. Minnesota child labor standards also apply to minors operating certain equipment.



VEHICLE USE





VEHICLE SAFETY

When using vehicles, the safety of the occupants and pedestrians should be the top priority. Implementing the following best practices can help to reduce hazards associated with vehicle operation.

- Drivers should be trained and if necessary licensed to operate the machinery they use.
- Drivers should be familiar with the operator's manual for the equipment they use.
- Seat belts should always be used when provided.
- If operating equipment that requires climbing into or out of the cab, the operator should always maintain three points of contact (two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand), face the vehicle and never jump off the equipment.
- All traffic laws should be followed.
- Vehicles should be used at appropriate speeds.
- Vehicles should only be used for their intended purposes.
- Regular maintenance on vehicles should be conducted per manufacturer recommendations to ensure safe operation.
- Vehicles should be visually inspected before use. A daily inspection checklist could be used that includes such items as proper tire inflation, fuel and fluid levels, checking for leaks, etc.
- Blind corners should be approached with care and any objects in the road should be removed.
- Loads should be balanced and not obstruct the driver's vision. If the vision is obstructed, a spotter should help guide the driver to the location.
- Skid steers or other material-moving equipment should be equipped with backup alarms.
- Drivers operating vehicles near pedestrians should be trained to make eye contact with pedestrians and acknowledge their presence to reduce the chances of collisions.
- Any buckets or attachments should be lowered when empty and when the vehicle is parked.
- Any passengers should be positioned in seats; passengers should not be hanging off sideboards, in truck beds or on skid-steer buckets or attachments.
- Skid steers or vehicles prone to tipping, such as tractors, should be equipped with adequate roll-over protection structures.

VEHICLE USE AND MINNESOTA CHILD LABOR LAWS

In Minnesota, minors are prohibited from operating certain equipment until the ages of 16 and 18 years old. Violating child labor laws and various restrictions can have serious repercussions, so care should be taken to comply with current laws.

Minors younger than 16 years old are prohibited from working with:

- Power-driven snow blowers
- Lawn and garden equipment

Minors younger than 18 years old are prohibited from:

- Driving passenger-carrying vehicles
- Operating, riding on or assisting in the operation of most power-driven hoisting apparatus, such as forklifts, skid steers, scissor lifts, etc.
- Operating, erecting or dismantling rides or machinery in an amusement park

For further information pertaining to people movers and hayrides, see Chapter 26.