



Useppa Island Fire Rescue

“Dedicated to protecting lives and property from fires, natural disasters, to save lives by providing Advanced Life Support in medical emergencies and through prevention and education programs”

Golf Cart Safety

One of the most common causes of home fires in a golf cart community is golf cart chargers and improperly maintained batteries. The chargers get warm and sometimes very hot and "dry" batteries coupled with corrosion are a fire hazard.

1. Do not place any rags, papers or boxes on or near the chargers.

As golf cart chargers age the DC connection can get old and frayed especially when they are used almost daily. This can create a safety hazard, old cords need to be replaced.

2. You should not leave for extended period of time with your golf cart plugged into the charger. Always unplug the charger from the outlet. Although most new "smart" battery chargers turn off when the batteries are fully charged, if a safety mechanism malfunctions the battery will overcharge and can catch fire. This recently happened to a golf cart in Lakeland, Florida. The golf cart caught on fire and so did the house.

3. Charge your batteries in a well ventilated area. In a Club Car manual I found this warning: *“Danger! Batteries emit hydrogen while being charged. Hydrogen is an explosive gas. If the vehicle is equipped with a weatherproof enclosure, it should be unzipped and pulled back while batteries are being charge. This is to avoid the accumulation of hydrogen gas inside the enclosure. The charging area must be ventilated. Hydrogen levels in the air must never exceed 2 percent. The total volume of air in the building must be changed five times per hour. Exhaust fans should be located at the highest point of the roof. Contact a local HVAC engineer.”*

4. Match the correct battery charger with the lead acid batteries

Battery chargers are not universal. Check the battery manufacturers recommendations on properly charging their batteries.

5. Keep Your Batteries Watered

Many new golf cart owners are unaware of the need to monitor the water/electrolyte levels of their lead acid batteries. Explosions can happen when batteries become dry.

Useppa Fire Rescue would like to encourage everyone to disconnect your golf cart from the charger once it is fully charged.

Maria N Silva,
Fire Chief