


Ocean City Fire Department
FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

FCGO: 23-001

Monday, April 10, 2023

REVISED- Monday, July 10, 2023

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TO	ALL OCFD Personnel
FROM	Fire Chief Richard R. Bowers, Jr 
SUBJECT	ATV-UTV OPERATIONS/ OFM BONFIRE USE

The Ocean City Fire Department has multiple All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) /Utility Task Vehicles (UTV) for use by personnel for beach bonfire patrol, beach rescues and other off-road incidents, and special events deployments.

ATV/UTV's are equipped with emergency lighting/siren for use during response to emergency incidents. The ATV/UTV speed for any operation, routine or emergency is not to exceed 40 miles per hour at any time to ensure responder and public safety. Reasonably slow speeds and extreme care must be taken at all times, and crowded pedestrian areas avoided as much as possible.

All operators of this unit are to conduct an initial checkout for vehicle use and a brief walk around inspection prior to and following each use, consisting of the following:

Initial Checkout Procedures

1. Go through the startup and shut down procedures, including starting the unit, location and types of gauges, location of the transmission shifter, and emergency light/siren button activators.
2. Know the width, length, height, tire pressure of the unit.
3. Activate the visual and audible emergency devices.
4. Drive the vehicle one block around the station not to exceed the maximum speed limit of 40 miles per hour.
5. Drive and operate the vehicle on the beach at a speed no greater than 40 miles per hour.
6. Operate and deploy any specialized equipment (winch, etc.) on the unit.
7. Document your checkout procedure with your officer in Red Alert.

Walk-Around Procedures (before each use)

1. Visually inspect the ATV/UTV unit interior/exterior.
2. Record any noted issues/damage and repair if detrimental to use.
3. Notify dispatch for on-air assignment, if required.

Return to Service Procedures (after each use)

1. Ensure the vehicle is washed, fueled above $\frac{3}{4}$, and any sand/debris is cleaned out.
2. Conduct a brief walk around inspection and report any equipment/vehicle damage, needed mechanical repair via email to Department Mechanics and operator's supervisor by end of shift/assignment. Email to include details on make/model/vehicle number, cause of damage (if known) and repair needed. If vehicle is out of service, personnel should note it on the vehicle as well.

Bonfire Inspection Assignment

Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) personnel regularly conducting beach bonfire checks shall utilize, in order of availability and appropriate needed weather protection:

1. FM open cab JD Gator (#788), housed at 65th Street
2. FD Polaris (#734), **housed at Fire House #4** during summer months (Memorial Day-Labor Day)
3. Available 4WD Utility pickup truck(s), from HQ or Station 4 if none are available at HQ.

On nights where two (2) OFM personnel are working on beach bonfire checks, two of the above vehicles are approved for use as required, based on weather.