

# Washington Township Fire Department Standard Operating Procedure

**Division 200:** Emergency Operations  
**Section 202:** Emergency Medical Services  
**Subject 202.05:** EMS Gator and Trailer Utilization Guidelines and Operational Procedures  
**Supersedes:** N/A



## Approved By:

Date: July 04, 2002

Page: 1 of 4

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## PURPOSE:

To establish utilization guidelines and operational procedures for the EMS Gator and trailer.

## RESPONSIBILITY:

All Emergency Medical Services personnel must have a thorough knowledge of the utilization guidelines and operational procedures of the EMS Gator and trailer. All fire department personnel must have a general understanding of utilization guidelines, operational procedures and the limitations of this apparatus.

## PROCEDURES:

The EMS Gator may be utilized only with the prior approval of (to be contacted in this order) the Deputy Chief, Chief or Shift Commander.

The EMS Gator and trailer will be housed at the Whipp Road Storage Facility located at 30 West Whipp Road. The key for the EMS Gator will be maintained in the Gator ignition. The key to the EMS Gator trailer will be maintained in the Fire Alarms Office. The same key fits all locks on the trailer. The following vehicles are equipped with a 2-inch ball and are capable of pulling the EMS Gator trailer:

- Unit ID 133, Chevrolet Blazer, assigned to Chief
- Unit ID 117, Ford Explorer, assigned to Deputy Chief
- Unit ID 115, Ford Explorer, assigned to Fire Marshal
- Unit ID 108, Ford Expedition, assigned to duty Shift Commander
- Unit ID 104, Ford Pick-up Truck, assigned to Fire Department Maintenance
- Unit ID 110, Chevrolet Van, assigned to Fire Department Maintenance
- Unit ID 127, HazMat 44, Chevrolet C-30 Utility, assigned to Station 44

The Gator is designed to be utilized as an accessory vehicle to transport patients from locations that are not accessible to the medics. Emergency uses may involve situations on golf courses, on trails in park areas or other situations as circumstances dictate. The EMS Gator may be used at special events, i.e., Americana Festival, Golf Tournaments, Dayton Air Show or any other special event approved by the Chief or Deputy Chief.

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Page: 2 of 4

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### *Safety Video –*

All personnel must be familiar with the safe operation of the EMS Gator. A twenty-four (24) minute videotape entitled “Safety First with Gators” has been provided by the manufacturer and must be viewed by all personnel.

### *Hooking the Trailer to the Tow Vehicle –*

- Raise trailer tongue above and over the ball attachment, then lower tongue onto ball
- Lock the ball locking device and secure pin through locking device
- Secure safety chains to frame of tow vehicle
- Secure electrical connection and check running lights, brake lights and turn signals for operability
- Raise jack stand and plate
- Remove footplate and secure to holder on tongue of trailer

### *Opening Trailer When Not Attached to Tow Vehicle –*

The rear stabilizing jacks must be used when the trailer is not attached to the tow vehicle.

- Disconnect from the tow vehicle and lower tongue of trailer
- Pull stabilizing jacks at rear corners forward and allow to swing down
- Place stabilizing jacks in contact with the ground
- Raise stabilizing jacks to a position where the trailer is level to the ground
- Unlock padlocks attached to the rear door
- Swing door handles to open position
- Pull and lower trailer door to ground (door is cable operated, do not force)

### *Opening Trailer When Attached to Tow Vehicle –*

It is preferred to utilize the rear stabilizing jacks, when trailer is attached to the tow vehicle, prior to opening the rear trailer door.

- Pull stabilizing jacks at rear corners forward and allow to swing down
- Place stabilizing jacks in contact with or as close to the ground as possible
- Unlock padlocks attached to the rear door

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Page: 3 of 4

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### *Opening Trailer When Attached to Tow Vehicle (cont'd)*

- Swing door handles to open position
- Pull and lower trailer door to ground (door is cable operated, do not force)

### *Removing Gator from Trailer –*

- Remove rear wheel blocks
- Remove safety strap that secures Gator in trailer
- Start Gator and back out slowly

### *Attaching Warning Light to Gator –*

- Remove warning light from inside trailer
- Place warning light into socket located between driver and passenger seats
- Connect electrical attachment for warning light located behind passenger seat

### *Auxiliary Switches (Left Side of Steering Wheel) –*

- Far Left Toggle Switch – Siren and Back up Beeper
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Toggle Switch from Left – Emergency Lights
- Rocker Switch next to Steering Wheel – Patient Lights
- Red Rocker Switch – Hazard Lights
- Black Rocker Switch – Turn Signals

### *Auxiliary Switches (Right Side of Steering Wheel) –*

- Ignition Switch w/ Key is next to Steering Wheel
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Switch to Right – Head Lights
- Last Position to Right – Horn Button

### *Driving the Gator –*

- The Gator may become unstable if turned sharply at high speeds
- The Gator's suspension was designed for off road use making slower speeds more comfortable for the patient
- As with any vehicle, caution should be used when operating the Gator

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Page: 4 of 4

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### *Patient Transport –*

- An EMS provider must accompany the patient at all times
- If transported in the sitting position, patient must be secured with the seat belt in the rear seat
- If transported lying down, patient must be strapped to backboard and backboard secured in place on the Gator with the straps provided
- Backboard is maintained in the Gator trailer

### *Returning the Gator to the Trailer –*

- Disconnect the emergency warning light assembly and store in trailer
- Carefully pull Gator into trailer
- Secure safety strap that secures Gator to the trailer
- Place wheel blocks behind rear wheels
- Secure the trailer door
- Restore stabilizing jacks to their upright position

### *Loaning of Gator and Trailer –*

- May be loaned to other jurisdictions with prior approval of Chief or Deputy Chief
- Requesting jurisdiction is financially responsible for any damage to the Gator or trailer while under their control
- The Washington Township Fire Department employee loaning the Gator must visually inspect the Gator and trailer for damage prior to its departure to and upon its return from the borrowing jurisdiction
- The Washington Township Fire Department employee must demonstrate to the borrowing jurisdiction how to safely remove and return the Gator to the trailer
- A Washington Township Fire Department Loan Agreement (Form 44) must be completed and on file prior to the loaning of the Gator and trailer
- A copy of this procedure must be provided to the jurisdiction borrowing the Gator and trailer