



# Spark Plugs For Automobile Dealerships



## Lot Safety: Golf Carts and Utility Vehicles

Many large dealerships use golf carts to quickly and conveniently move employees and customers around their lot. They are relatively cheap, maintenance free and easy to operate. But they do present some safety concerns and hazards. Yes, many dealership personnel are very experienced at driving carts on a golf course. However, driving a small, silent vehicle around a bustling car dealership is much different.

### Here are a few hints to help reduce this exposure

Before bringing a golf cart to the dealership, consider the following:

- **Specific Access:** Allow only specific and responsible people to access or use the vehicle. Controlling access can limit horseplay and unnecessary use.
- **Safety Rules:** Require users to read and sign a copy of the safety rules for the vehicle.
- **Identification:** Assign a designated traffic route for use by the golf cart that doesn't interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Consider highlighting the traffic patterns with marking paint to inform others of traffic routing.
- **Enforcement:** Punish improper use or behavior by revoking privileges or terminating employment.
- **Battery charging:** This should only be done in areas designed for that purpose. The area should be well ventilated and have spill response material available to clean-up electrolyte spills.

### OPERATING THE GOLF CART – SAFETY RULES

The following “rules of the road” should be observed when operating a golf cart on dealership property:

- Golf carts should be operated on perimeter roadways. Sidewalks should be used only where roadways and/or parking lots are not available, and then only to the nearest adjacent street or parking lot.
- When on the roadway, keep to the far right side of the lane to allow other vehicles to pass, if safe to do so. Maintain adequate distance between vehicles.
- Use extreme care at building entrances and upon entering/exiting enclosed areas.
- Always obey all traffic rules and regulations.
- Keep hands, legs, feet, and arms inside the golf cart when it is in motion.
- Never back up without making sure there are no obstructions behind the cart.
- Never operate the golf cart with more passengers aboard than it is designed to accommodate.
- Approach sharp or blind corners with caution.
- Reduce speed to compensate for inclines, pedestrians, and weather conditions.
- Never exceed the safe speed limit.
- Never leave the keys in the golf cart when unattended.
- Always lock and secure the golf cart when it is not being used.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** - The information and suggestions presented by The PMA Companies in this Risk Control *Spark Plug* are for your consideration in your loss prevention efforts. They are not intended to be complete or definitive in identifying all hazards associated with your business, preventing workplace accidents, or complying with any safety related, or other laws or regulations. You are encouraged to alter them to fit the specific hazards of your business and to have your legal counsel review all of your plans and company policies.