

Golf cart-charging fire prevention

Golf cart batteries have the potential to emit odorless hydrogen gas. Hydrogen, due to its highly flammable nature, has the ability to cause a serious fire or explosion. That's one reason why proper charging is so important.

Here are several tips to help prevent golf cart and storage facility fires:

- Read and follow instructions and warnings from the manufacturer.
- Only use the electrical cords and battery charger designated and designed for your golf cart.
- Battery chargers must be grounded to reduce risk of electrical shock.
- Check for damage to the battery as well as leaks in the battery.
- The charger cord, plug and receptacle can wear and become damaged and should be inspected daily.
- If an automatic battery charger (meaning you cannot overcharge) is not used, then it's recommended that a timer be used to control when a full charge is reached.
- Battery terminals should be free of corrosion, as small gaps may form when corroded creating potential for sparks to release.
- Avoid overfilling or underfilling the cart's lead acid battery with distilled water.
- Install a dual smoke and carbon monoxide detector in the golf cart charging area.
- Ensure proper ventilation when charging batteries to avoid accumulation of hydrogen. If exhaust fans are provided in the storage facility, ensure fans are turned on at least four hours daily. This provides the minimum fire air changes per hour for golf cart storage facilities.
- Do not store flammable or combustible items in the charging area including rags, cardboard boxes, paints, etc.
- Spark-generating activities such as smoking or metal grinding should be prohibited. All ignition sources should be kept away from the charging area.
- If you detect any signs of a problem with the charging system, power distribution or deteriorating batteries, contact local golf cart technicians to check for irregularities in voltage or faults.
- Inspect the electric systems annually within golf cart storage facilities. Inspections should be performed by a qualified electrician. The inspection should include verifying breaker function and ground fault interruption or charging circuit interrupting device functionality. The owner should maintain a record of inspections and any corrective actions or repairs.



The information contained in this service bulletin was obtained from reliable sources. However, UFG accepts no legal responsibility for the correctness or completeness of this information.