



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
SIX-WHEELER OPERATIONS

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Purpose: To identify the necessary and proper guidelines associated with the use and operation of the 6-wheel Polaris Ranger off-road vehicle.

General Operating Procedures

All GFD Operators must be task trained prior to operating this off-road vehicle, including driving the vehicle and operating the pump. The following rules are mandatory:

- Seat belts are to be worn whenever the vehicle is in operation.
- The vehicle is to be backed on to the trailer for transporting.
- Four separate straps are to be used to secure this vehicle to the trailer.
- Supplied helmets, or fire helmets, are to be worn by all personnel in vehicle at all time while in operation.
- No more than three persons may ride inside the vehicle.
- Operators shall place foot on brake prior to shifting gears.
- Shift vehicle into appropriate gear, release the parking brake and release the active brakes.
- Do not shift gears with vehicle in motion. Do not switch between all-wheel drive and rear wheel drive while in motion, as this may cause severe damage to the transmission and differential if gears are shifted while in motion.
 - The vehicle shall be operated normally in low gear while surveying.
 - High gear may be used only when on hard surfaces and lightly loaded.
 - High gear shall not be used when towing objects or carrying heavy loads.
 - Low gear only will be used whenever a patient is secured in the rear of the vehicle.
- Maintain safe speeds at all times.
- Do not operate vehicle on slopes in excess of 15 degrees or in areas with excessive loose materials or unstable ground.
- Do not drive through standing water unless through a designed low-water crossing. At no time should equipment be driven through water that exceeds the depth of the floor boards. If vehicle has been operated in water, notify the Officer-in-Charge of vehicle maintenance. Specific maintenance items must be completed immediately after this incidence and before the next use of vehicle to prevent damage.
- When climbing or descending hills, do not traverse at an angle. Go straight up or straight down while maintaining a steady speed that is not excessive based on the circumstances.
- Do not make sharp turns.
- Use the parking brake when parking vehicle at the scene.
- Do not leave the engine running while unattended.
- No one is allowed to ride in the rear of vehicle, except for a patient that is properly secured in stokes basket and providing that the basket is properly secured to the vehicle as recommended.
- Do not exceed maximum load for vehicle of 1750 pounds (including operator and passengers) or 1250 pounds in the cargo .area
- When using the vehicle to transport a patient, the water will need to be drained from the tank to reduce the total vehicle weight.



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Towing Procedures

- Do not tow standard sized vehicles with the six-wheeler.
- Light equipment such as boat trailers can be towed using the proper equipment.
- Use proper receiver hitch and ball size for equipment being towed.
- Insure that safety chains are attached and that ball hitch is secured.
- Do not turn sharply while towing equipment as equipment may make contact with the rear of the vehicle or the tires and cause severe damage.
- Utilize slow speeds when towing equipment.
- Polaris is not to be used to pull any vehicles that are stuck.
- Do not exceed maximum towing capacity on level ground of 1750 pounds or 1000 pounds on slopes.
- Do not exceed hitch weight of 150 pounds.

Pump Operations

- Before starting pump motor, open tank-to-pump valve to ensure that there is water at the pump. Do not allow the pump to run dry.
- If attempting to draft with the pump and the holding tank is empty, the pump may need to be primed by removing the plug at the top and adding water directly into the pump.
- When filling the tank directly from another pump with the tank fill port do not exceeded 75 psi.