

Electric golf carts come equipped with batteries that must be charged properly. Improper charging can lead to hazardous conditions which could lead to asphyxiation or fire. Below are a few safety tips to avoid potential hazards:

- Always follow the cart manufacturer's instructions. Some include information for setting the cart in the charging mode.
- Use the charger provided by the manufacturer.
- Follow the battery manufacturer's recommendations on properly charging your battery.
- Lead acid batteries require watering, if this is not done per manufacturer's instructions, the batteries can become dry and explode.
- Although most "smart" battery chargers turn off when the batteries are fully charged, if a safety mechanism malfunctions the battery will overcharge and can catch fire.
- Do not leave your cart plugged in for an extended period without being monitored. Always charge when someone is home and never overnight.
- Do not use an extension cord without first following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not charge your cart in a wet or damp area.
- Charge your cart in a ventilated area.
- Check the temperature of the area where you keep your golf cart. Postpone the charging process if the temperature is either extremely high or low.
- Do not charge your cart near flammable materials.
- Do not place any material that absorbs heat (rags, papers or boxes) on or near the charger.
- Regularly check the connections on your cart. The DC connector (plug) and cords can get old and frayed especially when used daily.
- If your cart has an acid lead battery, ensure that your house and crofter have carbon monoxide detectors (these should pick up a build up of hydrogen gas read our alert on hydrogen gas <u>HERE</u>.)

Don't Let This Happen to You!

In 2019 \$60,000 in damage was sustained to a Seabrook Island home and van when a modified 50-foot extension cord was used to charge an electric golf cart. The cord lacked the third prong needed to ground electricity, prompting the golf cart in the driveway to catch fire, and ignite both the house next to it and a van nearby.

Golf Carts are made of primarily synthetics and plastics. The BTU output will quickly consume everything around it and lead to a fully involved structure fire.