

Delaware County Emergency Medical Service Standard Operating Guidelines

Subject	Effective	Supersedes	This Sheet	Total
Gator and MCI Trailer Operations	August 1, 2007	All	1	3

All DCEMS personnel must have a thorough knowledge of the utilization guidelines and operational procedures of the EMS Gator and trailer, and the Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Trailer. All department personnel must have an understanding of utilization guidelines, operational procedures and the limitations of this apparatus.

PROCEDURES:

The EMS Gator and trailer will be housed at Delaware County EMS Station #1. The key for the EMS Gator will be kept in the EMS Gator ignition.

The following vehicles are equipped with a hitch capable of pulling the EMS Gator trailer:

- 2003 Dodge Durango
- 2006 Ford Explorer
- 2008 Ford F-250 Pickup

The Gator is designed to be utilized as an accessory vehicle to transport patients from locations that are less accessible to the Medic vehicles. 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., The Delaware County Fair, horse shows and rodeos, or any other special events as approved by the Chief or Assistant Chief.

The following vehicle is equipped with a hitch capable of pulling the MCI trailer:

- 2008 Ford F-250 Pickup

The MCI Trailer is designed to be utilized as a resource when the logistical needs of an emergency are exceeded due to the number of patients present compared to the number of EMS vehicles available. The MCI Trailer provides the logistical and medical supplies necessary to mitigate a 40 to 100 patient emergency scene. In addition to being dispatched by Central, or being requested by companies on the scene of an incident, the MCI Trailer may be "pre-staged" in certain situations, such as the Delaware County Fair, the presence of high-risk dignitaries in the County, and any other special event as approved by the Chief or Assistant Chief.

Hooking the Trailers to the Tow Vehicle –

- Place the Reese hitch into the receiver on the tow vehicle, and secure the locking pin in place.
- 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

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Subject	Effective	Supersedes	This Sheet	Total
Gator and MCI Trailer Operations	August 1, 2007	All	2	3

MCI 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
- Swing door handles to open position

MCI Trailer - 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 doors.

- 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
- Swing door handles to open position

Gator Trailer – Setting up Trailer & Removing Gator from Trailer –

The Gator Trailer MUST be left attached to the tow vehicle when loading and unloading the Gator from the trailer.

- Remove cotter pins from ramps, and slowly lower each ramp to the ground.
- Remove safety strap that secures Gator in trailer
- Start Gator and back out slowly, with the presence of a backer.

Auxiliary Switches (Left Side of Steering Wheel) –

- Far Left Toggle Switch – Siren and Back up Beeper
- 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
- Switch to Right – Head Lights
- Last Position to Right – Horn Button

Driving the Gator –

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- 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

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
- If transported lying down, patient must be strapped to backboard and backboard secured in place on the Gator with the straps provided
- A backboard is maintained in the Gator trailer

Returning the Gator to the Trailer –

- Carefully pull Gator nose first into trailer until it nearly touches the equipment box at the front.
- Set the Gator in park and set safety brake.
- Secure safety strap that secures Gator to the trailer
- Raise trailer ramps and replace cotter pins securely.

Loaning of Gator and Trailer –

- May be loaned to other jurisdictions with prior written approval of Chief or Assistant Chief
- The MCI Trailer is NOT available for loan.
- Requesting jurisdiction is financially responsible for any damage and/or repair to the Gator or trailer while under their control
- The DCEMS 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 DCEMS employee must demonstrate to the borrowing jurisdiction how to safely remove and return the Gator to the trailer
- A DCEMS Loan Agreement 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

Issuing Authority:



DCEMS Chief Rob Farmer

08/01/2007

Date