I. PURPOSE

To ensure safe operation and towing of the North Kingstown Fire Department's (Department) "All-Terrain Vehicle" John Deere Gator [a.k.a. the Gator] to any drill, incident, or function.

II. BACKGROUND

The Town of North Kingstown includes more than 8,000 acres of land dedicated to open space. This includes the Town Beach, Ryan Park, Rome Point, Cocumscussoc State Park, Calf Pasture Point, Municipal Golf Course, and the Quonset Davisville Bike Path. Historically, these areas posed a great challenge for emergency service personnel. As a result of these challenges, the Department has acquired and placed into a service an All-Terrain Vehicle [a.k.a. the Gator].

The intent of the Gator is to allow public safety personnel access to areas of Town that traditional road vehicles cannot traverse. Additionally, under specific circumstances, as outlined in this policy, the Gator can be utilized to transport personnel and injured parties from remote areas with limited accessibility. The Gator also has a trailer capable of carrying emergency medical (EMS) equipment, brush fire equipment, and a variety of other lifesaving paraphernalia, including transporting injured patients via stokes, and/or passenger seat (when possible).

III. PROCEDURE

Due to its unique design and handling characteristics, extreme caution must be exercised while hauling, operating, and transporting patients with this vehicle.

A. Response

1. The Gator will not be listed on first-run response cards.
2. The Gator can be requested by on-scene company officers, responding officers, and public safety dispatchers (PSD) based on the emergency response particulars.
3. All requests for the Gator shall be made through the shift commander.
4. The shift commander shall have ultimate authority and latitude to direct appropriate companies to initiate the Gator's response.
5. The shift commander shall have the latitude to assign an out-of-district company to respond to station one, or the latitude to assign an admin/staff unit and/or personnel to respond to the scene with the Gator.
6. Under no circumstances should the PSD delay the dispatch of emergency apparatus to determine the availability, and/or dispatch of the Gator.

7. Unless otherwise specified, all Gator responses shall be "normal traffic."

B. Towing

1. Once dispatched the Gator can be towed by the following apparatus (Department apparatus equipped with Class IV Towing Hitch):
    a. Brush 1
    b. Truck 4
    c. Truck 30
    d. Unit 3
    e. Car 1, 2, 3, 7, 8
2. Personnel shall ensure the following prior to responding:
    a. The trailer light connection, safety chain connection, and the tow vehicle is properly secured to the trailer prior to towing.
    b. The Gator is properly secured to prevent forward, backward, and sideways movement on the trailer.
3. The gator shall be stored on the trailer so that it can be driven off the trailer in a forward motion upon arrival on-scene.

C. Operations

1. The Gator's trailor will have minimal equipment stored in it. On-scene companies shall load equipment into the dunnage area and on top of the trailer prior to departing the command post.
    a. Equipment mounted on top of trailer must be properly secured prior to operation.
2. When the Gator's trailer is not required, it should be detached prior to departing the command post.
3. Gator use on paved surfaces should be avoided. If the vehicle must be operated on pavement, the operator should turn gradually and go slowly.
4. At no time will any operator risk damage to the vehicle by attempting to operate the vehicle outside of its ability on any terrain.
5. Drivers will utilize due regard when operating on or off-road.
6. When parking the Gator:
    a. Turn ignition off, engage brake, and leave vehicle in "park" or the appropriate gear for the slope at the parking place
    b. Consider blocking tires if parking on a steep incline/decline; and
    c. Remove keys if appropriate.
7. Drivers will maintain an appropriate speed in relation to terrain conditions.

8. All tools or equipment transported on a UTV shall be secured.
9. Reckless driving and horseplay are prohibited.
10. Parking Brake will be engaged before exiting the Gator.
11. When transporting a patient on the Gator:
    a. Patient must be secured with the ignition off, the transmission in gear, and the parking brake set prior to departure.