OPERATE SIDE-BY-SIDE UTILITY VEHICLES

PowerPoint Presentation

AHCMOM2I6 – Operate side-by-side utility vehicles

1

Knowledge

Introduction

A side-by-side utility vehicle is a side-by-side utility vehicle (also known as a UTV or SxS) is a type of off-road vehicle that features seating for two or more passengers side-by-side, within a single chassis.

Unlike traditional quad bikes, side-by-sides typically have:

- An enclosed or semi-enclosed cab or seating area.
- Four-wheel drive capabilities.
- Enhanced stability and safety features.
- Designed for work and recreational purposes, such as farming, land management, or trail riding.

Here are some of the key attributes that define side-by-side utility vehicles:

1. **Seating Capacity**: Designed for passenger comfort, SxS vehicles typically accommodate two to six people, allowing riders to comfortably accompany the driver.

2

Correctly fit PPE

PC 1.4 Use, wear and correctly fit personal protective equipment including helmets that are fit for purpose according to operators manual

Check the operator's manual to make sure you are wearing the correct PPE. You should properly put on and wear safety gear so that it provides effective protection.

Make sure helmets are fit for purpose according to operator's manual. You should wear helmets and other safety gear (like gloves, eye protection, or seatbelts) correctly to ensure your safety while operating the vehicle.

Question 7

Why is it important to wear and fit personal protective equipment correctly when operating a side-by-side utility vehicle?

Answer may include but not limited to:

Wearing and fitting personal protective equipment correctly is important because it ensures optimal protection, reduces the risk of injury, and helps you stay safe while operating the vehicle.

Question 8

What should you check in your helmet before using it with a side-by-side utility vehicle?

Answer may include but not limited to:

You should ensure the helmet is fit for purpose, properly fitted according to the operator's manual, and securely worn to provide effective protection.

3

Check weight of load if you are carrying one

PC 1.5 Attach equipment and loads that do not exceed the weight limitations of the vehicle

When loading or connecting items—such as tools, gear, or any other equipment—onto your side-by-side utility vehicle, you must be mindful of the vehicle's maximum weight capacity, which is determined by the manufacturer.

Correctly fasten the load to the vehicle. Do not exceed the specified limits for the vehicle.

Each vehicle comes with a defined maximum weight that it can safely transport. This figure encompasses not only the weight of the vehicle itself but also includes any passengers and the additional gear or cargo being carried.

Overloading your UTV can lead to unsafe handling, increased wear and tear, and potential mechanical failure. Additionally, it could result in accidents, putting both the driver and passengers at risk. Therefore, to ensure safe operation and longevity of your vehicle, always verify that the total weight of everything being loaded does not exceed the manufacturer's specified weight limit. This practice ensures a smooth and secure riding experience while maximising the effectiveness of your UTV.

Question 9

Why is it important to not exceed the maximum weight capacity when loading a side-by-side utility vehicle?

Answer may include but not limited to:

Not exceeding the maximum weight capacity is important because overloading can lead to unsafe handling, increased wear and tear, potential mechanical failure, and a higher risk of accidents, which can endanger both the driver and passengers.

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2. Operate a side-by-side utility vehicle

PC 2.1 Start up, steer, manoeuvre, position and stop side-by-side utility vehicle in a controlled manner

Following is a detailed description of how to effectively start up, steer, manoeuver, position, and stop a side-by-side utility vehicle in a controlled manner:

1. Start Up

- **Pre-Start Checks**: Before you even think about starting the engine, take a moment to conduct a thorough safety inspection. Ensure that the area is free of any obstacles and that there are no bystanders in close proximity. It's also critical to check the fuel, oil, and other essential fluid levels to ensure the vehicle is ready for operation.
- **Secure Seatbelts**: Make it a priority to confirm that all passengers are buckled up before moving.
- **Ignition Process**: Insert the key into the ignition or engage the start button if your side-by-side utility vehicle is equipped with one. Make sure the vehicle is set to neutral or park to avoid unintended movement.
- **Starting the Engine**: Turn the key or push the start button to ignite the engine. Allow it a brief moment to warm up, especially in colder conditions, to ensure optimal performance.

Question 14

What steps should be taken to stop a side-by-side utility vehicle safely?

Answer may include but not limited to:

To stop a side-by-side utility vehicle safely, gradually ease off the throttle to start decelerating, and simultaneously apply the brake. As you approach a complete stop, firmly apply the brake until the vehicle is fully stopped. Once stopped, shift the vehicle into park (or neutral, depending on the model) and turn off the ignition. If necessary, remove the key to ensure the vehicle is secure and cannot be accidentally started.

PC 2.2 Identify environmental and biosecurity implications associated with side-by-side utility vehicle operation and minimise impact of vehicle use

It is important to understand and manage the environmental and biosecurity risks related to operating a side-by-side utility vehicle. Here's a breakdown:

- **Identify environmental and biosecurity implications**: Recognise and understand how using the vehicle can affect the environment (such as soil disturbance, erosion, pollution) and biosecurity (preventing the spread of pests, diseases, or invasive species).

For example, driving through wet areas can cause soil compaction and erosion.

The vehicle can carry seeds, pests, or diseases from one site to another, potentially introducing invasive species or pathogens.

- **Associated with side-by-side utility vehicle operation**: The focus is specifically on issues that arise from using these types of vehicles.

For example, driving off designated tracks into untouched vegetation. Another example would be to drive the vehicle in multiple locations without cleaning it between sites.

- **Minimise impact of vehicle use**: Take actions or adopt practices that reduce negative effects on the environment and biosecurity while operating the vehicle.

  For example:

  - Staying on designated roads or tracks to reduce soil disturbance.
  - Cleaning and inspecting the vehicle before moving to a new area to prevent spreading invasive species or pests.
  - Avoiding driving in wet or muddy conditions to prevent soil erosion and rutting.
  - Limiting the number of trips to reduce habitat disturbance and emissions.

In short, you should use the vehicle responsibly to protect the environment and prevent the spread of pests or diseases.

Question 15

What are some environmental implications of operating a side-by-side utility vehicle?

Answer may include but not limited to:

Operating a side-by-side utility vehicle can lead to various environmental implications, including soil disturbance, erosion, and pollution. One significant issue is that driving through wet areas can result in soil compaction and erosion, negatively affecting the land's natural structure and health.

Furthermore, these vehicles can inadvertently transport seeds, pests, or diseases between different sites, which poses a risk of introducing invasive species or pathogens to new environments.

Driving skills

PC 2.3 Apply side-by-side utility vehicle driver skills

Note: Read Pages 19 to 32 of 'Side-by-sides – A Practical Guide'. Your trainer will then ask you the questions below. (This may be down as a group training exercise.)

Question 18

Where can you find a guide to all instruments and controls of the side-by-side utility vehicle you will be using.

Answer may include but not limited to:

You will find this information in the operator's manual.

Question 19

What do the letters OAR stand for.

Answer:

O = Observe well ahead

A = Anticipate what might happen

R = Respond appropriately

Operator's manual

PC 2.4 Operate side-by-side utility vehicles in accordance with task requirements, conditions and operators manual

When driving side-by-side utility vehicles (UTVs), you should follow the instructions and guidelines specified in the operator's manual, and you should adjust your driving based on the specific tasks you're performing and the conditions you are in.

For example, if you are using a side-by-side utility vehicle to carry tools and materials across a muddy construction site (task) during rainy weather (conditions), you might need to drive more slowly, avoid steep or uneven areas, and use lower gear to maintain control. Adjusting your driving and operation in this way helps ensure safety and prevents getting stuck or causing accidents in challenging conditions.

Question 24

Why is it important to operate side-by-side utility vehicles according to the operator's manual?

Answer may include but not limited to:

Operating according to the operator's manual helps ensure safe use, prevents accidents, and ensures the vehicle performs properly under specific task requirements and environmental conditions.

Minimise safety risk

PC 2.7 Modify side-by-side utility vehicle operation according to local weather conditions

Operators must adjust their driving practices based on the specific weather circumstances they encounter.

Here are some examples:

Rainy Conditions:

- **Modification**: Decrease speed and extend following distance.
- **Example**: When rain is pouring, a driver should consciously slow down to prevent hydroplaning and maintain better vehicle control. Creating a larger gap between vehicles allows for adequate stopping time, reducing the risk of accidents.

Snowy or Icy Conditions:

- **Modification**: Equip the vehicle with snow tyres or chains and reduce speed significantly.
- **Example**: In snowy conditions, fitting snow tyres or chains can drastically enhance traction and control. An operator driving through a snowy trail should take care to navigate slowly, avoiding sudden movements that might lead to skidding or loss of control.

Report faults

PC 3.2 Identify and report malfunctions, faults, irregular performance or damage to supervisor

If you encounter any of these issues while operating the side-by-side utility vehicle, it's essential to carefully note what you observed, including any specific symptoms or warning signs. Communicating these findings to your supervisor promptly allows for appropriate measures to be taken, whether that be repair work, inspections, or safety advisories, thus ensuring the vehicle remains reliable and safe for use.

For example:

Malfunctions: This refers to any unexpected failure in the vehicle's operation.

- *Example*: Imagine you turn the ignition key, and instead of the engine roaring to life, there is silence. This failed attempt to start the vehicle is a clear malfunction that needs to be reported immediately.

Faults: This relates to specific errors or defects within the vehicle's systems that could compromise its operation.

- *Example*: If, while driving, you press the brake pedal and notice that the vehicle continues to roll instead of stopping, this indicates a fault in the braking system that must be flagged to ensure safety.

Irregular performance: This pertains to instances where the vehicle operates but not in its usual manner, signalling potential underlying issues.

Park side-by-side utility vehicle

PC 3.3 Park and secure side-by-side utility vehicle

Parking and securing a side-by-side utility vehicle (UTV) involves several important steps to ensure safety and prevent theft or damage. Here are some detailed guidelines:

Choose a Safe Location: It's essential to park in a well-lit area if possible, as this deters potential thieves and increases visibility. Avoid parking on steep inclines or unstable ground, which could lead to accidents. Whenever available, utilise designated parking areas specifically designed for UTVs.

Turn Off the Engine: Always turn off the engine and remove the key to prevent unauthorised use. This simple step is crucial for ensuring that no one can accidentally or intentionally drive off with your vehicle.

Engage the Parking Brake: Make sure to engage the parking brake to prevent the vehicle from rolling away. This is particularly important if you are parked on any incline, ensuring the vehicle remains stationary.

Secure the Vehicle: For added security, use a heavy-duty lock or chain to secure the UTV to a fixed object, such as a post or a solid tree. It's also wise to consider additional security measures like a wheel lock or a steering wheel lock, which can serve as a deterrent against theft.

Cover the UTV: If you have a cover for your UTV, use it to protect it from the elements and obscure it from view to potential thieves. A cover not only protects the vehicle from weather damage but can also keep it clean and in better condition.