Pioneer Trek Handcart Safety Guidelines

Leesburg Florida Stake 2027
"Rejoice in Christ"

Handcart Operation and Safety

Pulling a handcart over sandy Florida trails requires teamwork and careful operation to prevent injury and equipment damage. Please read and follow these safety guidelines carefully:

Handcart Safety Guidelines

- **Never run with the handcart.** Always maintain a steady, controlled walking pace.
- **Lower the tongue gently.** Never drop the wooden tongue to the ground. Lower it slowly if front-heavy, or ease it back if rear-heavy, to avoid broken equipment or foot injuries.
- **Pull together.** Every family member should do their fair share of pushing or pulling. Rotate positions to manage fatigue.
- **Load Distribution:** A cart loaded too far back will lift the tongue and flip backwards; loaded too far forward, it drives excessive tongue weight onto the pullers' arms and shoulders, so load the cart with the weight centered or slightly in front of the axle.
- **Stay clear of moving wheels.** Keep hands, feet, long skirts, and ropes away from the spokes and wheels. Never touch or push directly on the wheels.
- **No riding in handcarts.** Carts are strictly for equipment, buckets and sleeping gear. Only medical staff or the Company Captain may authorize someone to ride due to illness or injury.
- **Avoid trail hazards.** Steer around large rocks, stumps, holes, and logs. Keep the cart level; pulling at an angle shifts excessive weight to one wheel and can cause an axle to snap.
- **Do not deface handcarts.** Writing, carving, or painting on handcarts is strictly forbidden.
- **Secure carts when stopping.** Turn handcarts sideways on slopes or place a stone or log behind the wheels to prevent rolling.
- **Report Damage:** Watch for potential wear and breakdown on the handcarts. If a cart feels loose, damaged, or broken, alert your Ma, Pa, Aunt, or Uncle immediately.