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REDUCING THE RISK OF ROLLOVER CRASHES IN 15-PASSENGER VANS

The risk of a rollover crash is greatly increased when 10 or more people ride in a 15-passenger van or when a load is placed on the roof of the van.

These two conditions change the van's center of gravity. As a result, the van has less resistance to rollover and handles differently from other passenger vehicles making it more difficult to control in an emergency situation.

Most vehicle rollovers are single vehicle crashes in which the vehicle runs off the road and overturns when it strikes a ditch, embankment, soft soil, or other object.

Tips for Preventing Rollover

- Drivers must be well rested and maintain a safe speed for weather and road conditions.
- Drivers must be especially cautious on *curved* rural roads and maintain a safe speed to avoid running off the road.
- If the van's wheels drop off the roadway, *gradually* reduce speed and steer back onto the roadway when it is safe to do so.
- Make sure the van's tires are properly inflated and the tread is not worn down. Check tire pressure and treadwear once a month.

Buckle Up for Safety

Eighty percent of people killed in rollover crashes in 15-passenger vans were not wearing seat belts. Passengers can dramatically reduce their risk of being killed or seriously injured in a rollover crash by simply using their seat belts. Organizations that own 15-passenger vans should have a written seat belt use policy. Drivers should be responsible for enforcing the policy.

Other Tips for Safe Driving

When a 15-passenger van is not full, passengers should sit in seats that are in front of the rear axle.

More than 15 people should never be allowed to ride in a 15-passenger van.

Because 15-passenger vans are substantially longer and wider than cars, they:

- Require more space and additional reliance on the side-view mirrors for changing lanes
- Do not respond as well to abrupt steering maneuvers
- Require additional braking time.

An Experienced Driver Makes a Difference

An organization that owns a 15-passenger van should select one or two experienced drivers to drive the van on a regular basis. These drivers will gain valuable experience handling the van and this experience will help make each trip a safe one.

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

NHTSA
People Saving People
www.nhtsa.gov

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