

THE ISSUE: 15-PASSENGER VAN SAFETY

FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS THE USE OF 15-PASSENGER VANS FOR SCHOOL-RELATED TRANSPORT OF HIGH SCHOOL AGE AND YOUNGER CHILDREN.



A DRIVER TRANSPORTING 16 PEOPLE FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES MUST HAVE A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE.

- Between 1990 and 2002, there were 1576 fatal crashes involving 15 passenger vans – 1111 occupants of these vehicles were killed.
- Single vehicle crashes represented 42% of the fatal accidents.
- Eight-seven percent of those who died in single vehicle rollovers were not wearing safety belts.
- Passenger ratio of vans involved in roll-overs:

Less than 5	12.3%
5-9	20.8%
10-15	29.1%
Over 15	70%

Loading the van moves the center of gravity to the rear, increasing the risk of roll-over and making it more difficult to control in an emergency situation.

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

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

REDUCE THE RISK!

- ✓ Van should be driven **ONLY** by experienced operators.
- ✓ Seat belts on everyone – all the time!
- ✓ No more than 15 people, including the driver.
- ✓ When the van is not full, passengers should sit in seats in front of rear axle.
- ✓ Maintain proper tire inflation and tread. Check tire pressure and tread wear before traveling.
- ✓ Do not drive when fatigued.
- ✓ Do not speed.
- ✓ Avoid conditions that lead to loss of control.
- ✓ Be especially cautious on curved roads and rural roads.
- ✓ If wheels drop off the roadway or pavement, gradually reduce speed and steer back on roadway when it is safe to do so.
- ✓ Do not load luggage on roof – this greatly increases the rollover risk.