



# SafetyAlert

We're Serious About Safety

## Reducing the Risk of 15-Passenger Van Rollovers

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) research shows that 15-passenger vans have a rollover risk that increases dramatically as the number of occupants increases from fewer than five to more than ten. More than half of the 15-passenger vans involved in single vehicle accidents rolled over compared to one-third of passenger cars.

While many companies depend upon the convenience of 15-passenger vans, employers and employees alike must be aware of the potential danger of rollover crashes. The risk of rollover crashes is greatly increased when ten or more people ride in a 15-passenger van or when a load is transported on the roof of the van. By altering the van's center of gravity, the van has less resistance to rollover and thus becomes more difficult to control in an emergency situation.

The most common vehicle rollovers are single vehicle crashes in which the vehicle runs off the road and overturns when striking a ditch embankment, soft soil or other object. In addition, 80% of 15-passenger van fatalities occurred when passengers were not wearing seat belts. Organizations that own 15-passenger vans should have a written seat belt policy, which drivers should regularly enforce.

Organizations should allow only experienced drivers to drive the van on a regular basis. The Beacon Mutual Insurance Company also offers a 4-hour defensive driving training program for individuals who operate non-CDL vehicles. These classes are an excellent way to keep your drivers and passengers safe on the roadway.

Information for this document was compiled from research conducted by the United States Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Printable posters and information cards are available through the NHTSA at: [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)



### Safety Precautions: Tips for Preventing Rollovers

- Require that all occupants wear safety belts at all times.
- Inspect the tires and check the tire pressure regularly.
- 15-passenger vans should be operated only by trained, experienced drivers who operate these vehicles on a regular basis.
- The 15-passenger van driver should be well rested and attentive to driving at all times.
- Never allow more than 15 people to ride in a 15-passenger van.
- Cargo should be placed forward of the rear axle and placing any loads on the roof should be avoided. Do not tow anything behind the van. Check the owner's manual for maximum weight of passengers and cargo and avoid overloading the van. As the weight inside a van increases, so does the van's propensity to rollover.



Beacon Mutual offers a variety of training opportunities for employees, supervisors and managers. Please check our seminar schedule for more information.  
[www.beaconmutual.com](http://www.beaconmutual.com)

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