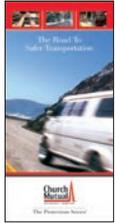


*Safety on the road takes more than good intentions.*

Church Mutual has created these safety materials to help alert you to potential transportation hazards. Customers can order them at [www.churchmutual.com](http://www.churchmutual.com) at no cost.



**“The Road To Safer Transportation” Booklet**

A booklet outlining driver “dos” and “don’ts.” Vehicle maintenance, responsibilities on the road, defensive driving tips and responding to emergencies — all are covered. (Also available in Spanish.)

**“The Road To Safer Transportation” DVD**

A 15-minute video developed especially for religious organizations. Topics include checking a vehicle before a trip, driving tips for oversized vehicles and responding to accidents. (Includes Spanish subtitles.)



(11" x 5")

**15-Passenger Van Dashboard Alert**

A self-adhesive alert to serve as a constant reminder of the additional hazards involved with driving 15-passenger vans.

**Driver’s Checklist**

A quick reference guide for drivers to use to check the vehicle before starting on a trip. Comes in pads of 25. (Also available in Spanish.)



Since 1897, Church Mutual has specialized in protecting religious organizations. Today, we provide property, liability, workers’ compensation and commercial automobile insurance to more than twice as many worship centers as the next leading insurer.

For more information, contact [info@churchmutual.com](mailto:info@churchmutual.com).

Para obtener asistencia inicial en español puede telefonar al (800) 241-9848 o enviar un correo electrónico a la dirección [espanol@churchmutual.com](mailto:espanol@churchmutual.com).

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**15-Passenger Van**  
Cautions and Precautions



**“Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection” Video**

A three-minute pre-trip vehicle inspection “how to” video also is available to watch on our website.



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*These simple precautions can help minimize the chances of a highway tragedy.*

*One of the most popular vans for group travel also is the most deadly.*

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) finds that 15-passenger vans — popular for transporting preschool, school-age, college and religious groups — are involved in rollover crashes more often than all other vehicles. The more passengers there are, the more dangerous they become. When loaded with more than 10 passengers, they are three times more likely to roll over in a crash.

A major problem is that 15-passenger vans have a high center of gravity. This center shifts higher and rearward when more occupants board. The rearward shift gives the van a propensity to “fishtail,” and the upward shift increases its likelihood of overturning. Once a van does overturn, its occupants are exposed to greater hazards than those of most vehicles. More than 80 percent of all fatalities in 15-passenger van crashes occur in single-vehicle rollovers.

Customers can order any of the materials that Church Mutual offers regarding the safe operation of 15-passenger vans at no cost. Simply visit [www.churchmutual.com](http://www.churchmutual.com) and click Safety Resources, then Transportation.

Despite multiple alerts from Church Mutual and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the number of rollovers and other accidents involving 15-passenger vans continues at an alarming rate — between 1982 and 2008, they were involved in 1,153 fatal crashes.

There are steps you can take to help prevent rollovers of 15-passenger vans and to reduce the seriousness of injuries when they do occur. We strongly recommend that you follow these procedures, along with general safety and supervision measures, when operating a large van:

***Buckle up***

The driver and all passengers in vans should wear seat belts. Those who don't are more likely to be ejected from the van during a rollover, and those ejected tend to suffer the most serious injuries and fatalities.

***Require experienced drivers***

Only use mature drivers who have experience with these large vans. Driving a 15-passenger van is much different and more challenging than driving a family car or minivan. Even experienced drivers might not always be able to get these large vehicles back under control when driving at highway speeds.

***Do an extensive pre-trip inspection***

Before starting out on a trip, inspect the vehicle from front to back and pay close attention to the tires. Many van rollovers are initiated by tire blowouts. Make sure the tires are properly inflated — neither overinflated nor underinflated.

***Follow sensible precautions***

To avoid fatigue on longer trips, have two drivers onboard and take frequent breaks. If your passengers are children, a second adult also is important for supervision purposes. Obey all posted speed limits.

***Look for tread wear***

The Tire Industry Safety Council recommends that tires be replaced when the tread is worn down to 1/16th of an inch. Put a penny into a tread groove (where tread is lowest) with Lincoln's head upside down. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, it's time to replace the tire. (More accurate measurements can be made with a tread depth gauge.) When you do replace tires, purchase tires that are properly sized and rated for your vehicle and load.

***Don't overload the van***

The vehicle might be too heavy to maneuver properly during emergencies when fully loaded with passengers and luggage. Loaded luggage racks on top of the van make controlling the van more difficult. Also, an overloaded vehicle is more likely to cause a tire blowout. We also recommend that you always fill the front rows of seats first, leaving any open seats in the rear row(s).

You can learn more about 15-passenger van safety by visiting the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website, [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov), or the National Transportation Safety Board website, [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov).

