George Fox University
Environmental Health and Safety
On-Line Training Module

15 Passenger Van Safety Training for Students and Employees
PASSENGER VAN USE POLICY (BASICS)

- For University sponsored events only.
- All drivers must be 21, have a valid drivers license, and attend a driver safety training class.
- Driver is responsible for completing reservation form at pick up and drop off.
- Driver will need to present drivers license and ID card with safety class validation at time of pick-up.
- Make sure the van is cleaned out, tank is at least half full, and lights (especially dome light) are turned off when van is checked in.
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

• In April 2001 issued consumer advisory after finding that 15-passenger vans have a dramatically higher risk of rolling when fully loaded.

• 2 Main Contributing factors to rollover accidents are inappropriate driving speed and high occupancy loading.

• To minimize the risk of rollover accidents, George Fox allows a maximum of 12 people per van including the driver.

The safety problem with large vans is not new.
A LARGE PASSENGER VAN WILL NOT HANDLE LIKE A CAR

Van loaded with 14 150 lb. water tanks

Professional driver

Stabilizer bars – can’t roll over

Test track – no traffic, lots of room, ideal conditions

23 mph without Roadmaster

Caution: do not try this anywhere or anytime without proper parental supervision or plenty of medical and collision insurance.
Effect of Speed

Driving like a passenger car may be dangerous in 15 passenger van.

- Vans do not accelerate as rapidly.
- Vans do not stop as swiftly.
- Vans may swerve if stopped rapidly.
- Overcorrecting to return to the road can cause rollovers.
PRACTICE BASIC DEFENSIVE DRIVING SKILLS ALL THE TIME

• Obey speed limit and the basic speed rule
• Don’t tailgate – 3 second rule
  – More in bad weather, at night, or in heavy traffic
• Always stay alert, attentive, and aware
  – Look ahead
  – Check your mirrors frequently
  – Look left-right-left at all intersections
• Avoid distractions
• Anticipate hazards – never be surprised
• Adjust for weather conditions
• Be courteous - use turn signals
• Make a trip plan, know your route, coordinate caravanning
• Avoid danger zones
PLAN A SAFE TRIP
BEFORE YOU GET IN

Any big leaks

What’s behind you
Complete a walk around check.

Walk all the way around.
Clean lights?

Lights work?

Turn signals flash?
Can you see out the windows?
Check the tires
Are the mirrors clean?
Clean lights? Do they work? Do the turn signals flash?
Plan your exit route when you arrive
BACKING UP

• Avoid Backing up whenever possible
• Never back up if you missed a turn or exit
• Use a spotter
• Visibility is best when Backing to the left (drivers side)
• Learn to use the outside mirrors
Spotter should stand on drivers side and line up with the side of the van.

Back away to the drivers side.
Do not back up until you see the spotter signaling

Do not run over your spotter
Learn how to use the right hand mirror
Because this mirror in a large van is worthless.
Adjust both mirrors so just the side of the van appears in the mirror.
And the horizon is toward the top of the mirror.
Maximize your view of your blind spot.
WATCH YOUR MIRROR AS YOU PASS VEHICLES
How long does it take between leaving the mirror and reaching your peripheral vision?

How big is your blind spot?

WATCH AS THEY PASS YOU
More than 90% of rollovers occur after a driver runs off of the road.
PREVENT DISTRACTIONS BY PRACTICING THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS

• Adjust the seat and mirrors and become familiar with the light and wiper controls before you start.
• Have a navigator tune the radio, adjust the heater or AC, look at the map for directions and handle cell phone communications when traveling by caravan.
• Keep the floor near the drivers seat clear so items do not get under your feet while driving.
• Don’t try to retrieve items that fall on the floor while driving. Wait until your vehicle is parked.
• Don’t eat while you are driving and make sure your drink is secured in a cup holder.
• If you find yourself “lost in thought” or drowsy take a break.
• Do not attempt to use your cell phone and drive at the same time. Turn your cell phone to “silent ring” so you are not tempted to answer it.
HEADS UP DRIVING

• Heads up – big picture
• Anticipate the hazards – do not be surprised
• Be aware of all other traffic, including cars coming up from behind
• Do not hang out in danger zones
• Leave plenty of following distance
• Smooth and easy on the steering wheel at highway speeds.
SAFE DRIVING TIPS

• Slow down.
• Anticipate – think “what if ?”
• Avoid abrupt maneuvers or jerking the wheel.
• Do not drive when tired or drowsy.
• Always drive conservatively.
• Check tire pressure before starting out.
• Do not ignore a change in ride performance like a new shimmy, wobble or vibration.
CRASH CAUSES

LANE CHANGES 18%
SAFE LANE CHANGES

Safe and Simple 5-step process. Do not skip any steps.

• Maintain your following distance. Be patient. Be sure you need to pass?
• Wait for an adequate break in traffic.
• Check your mirrors.
• Use your turn signal.
• Look over your shoulder.
• Change lanes and re-establish your following distance.
Do not hang out here for long

Danger Zone
3 second following distance

Pick a point
Start counting here
Use this speed in ideal conditions, slower at night, when it is raining, or you are not familiar with the road.

Slow down before you get to the curve.
Seatbelts Save Lives

- About 9,500 lives are saved each year because of seatbelt use. Proper use of your seatbelt will reduce your chances of being killed in a traffic collision by 45 percent.

- The driver is responsible for making sure passengers are buckled up correctly.
Proceed to the online Van Quiz.
A sticker for your ID badge will be mailed to your campus box if you pass.
Please email or call with any questions or concerns you have.

Please allow up to a week for processing and insurance approval.

AND ALWAYS DRIVE SAFETY