



TRANSPORTATION AND PASSENGER VAN POLICIES

HOUSE OF WORSHIP



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Table of Contents

Vehicle Safety	2
Considerations When Operating Vans.....	3
Accident Reporting.....	4
Inspection Records and Preventive Maintenance	5
Other Information Sources.....	5
Appendixes	
A. Vehicle Inspection Report	6
B. Preventive Maintenance Report.....	7
C. Vehicle Accident Summary Report	8
D. Supervisors Motor Vehicle Accident Investigation Report	9
E. Passenger Van Agreement	10
F. 15-Passenger Van Safety Acknowledgement.....	11
G. Other Informational Sources	12

TRANSPORTATION & PASSENGER VAN POLICIES

VEHICLE SAFETY

The following Vehicle Safety Rules/Regulations may not all apply to your house of worship. Please add any formal or informal vehicle rules/regulations your house of worship may have in place to this list and delete those that do not apply to your house of worship. Developing a Vehicle Safety Program unique to your house of worship's operation should be more effective in helping you to control frequent/severe vehicle losses.

All employees, volunteers, and house of worship members who drive a vehicle owned or leased by the house of worship must abide by the following safety rules:

1. The Driver of the vehicle is required to inspect the vehicle (before taking it on the road) to ensure that it is in safe working condition. This includes properly working brakes, horns, and back-up alarms. Note an example of *Vehicle Inspection Report* in **Appendix A**.
2. Any defects in the vehicle should be reported promptly to **(insert name of individual or group that is responsible for overseeing house of worship vehicle safety)**.
3. **All DRIVERS** are required to obey all state, local, and house of worship traffic regulations.
4. Engines are to be stopped and ignition keys removed when parking, refueling, or leaving the house of worship owned/leased vehicles.
5. Employees, volunteers, and house of worship members are not permitted to use personal cars or motorcycles for house of worship business, unless specifically authorized by **(insert name of individual or group overseeing safety associated with motor vehicle operations)**. If personal vehicles are driven on house of worship business, proof of personal auto coverage (i.e. copy of personal auto declarations page or copy of the insurance card from the vehicle) will be requested on an annual unannounced basis from all individuals that operate their own vehicles on house of worship business.
6. Passengers that are not house of worship employees, volunteers, house of worship members or individuals that have received prior approval from appropriate house of worship personnel to be transported, should not be transported in a house of worship owned, house of worship leased, or house of worship member vehicles at any time.
7. All drivers of house of worship owned, house of worship leased, employee/member, or volunteer owned vehicle should be driven in a safe manner and all drivers of such vehicles should practice defensive driving techniques at all times.
8. Seat belts and shoulder harnesses are to be worn at all times.
9. Vehicles must be locked when unattended to avoid criminal misconduct.
10. Vehicles must be parked in legal spaces and must not obstruct traffic.
11. Employees, volunteers and members should park their vehicles in well-lighted areas at or near entrances to avoid criminal misconduct.
12. Employees, volunteers and house of worship members transporting other members, visitors, or others on business for the house of worship should keep their headlights on at all times.
13. A vehicle, when loaded with any material extending 4 feet or more beyond its rear, shall have a red flag or cloth 12 inches square attached by day or a red light visible for 300 feet by night on the extreme end of the load.
14. Articles, tools, equipment, etc. placed in cars or vans are to be placed and secured in such a manner as not to impair vision or in any way interfere with proper operation of the vehicle.
15. When you cannot see behind your vehicle (van), the driver should walk behind the van prior to backing.

16. Personal use of house of worship owned or leased vehicles is not permitted without written approval from **(insert the name of the individual or house of worship group that is permitted to make decisions on issues such as this)**. Family members of house of worship employees that are provided with an owned or leased house of worship vehicle are prohibited from driving said vehicle at any time unless prior written approval has been obtained from **(insert the name of the individual or group listed above that is permitted to make decisions such as this on behalf of the house of worship organization)**. (Exception: in case of an emergency, where the employee is not able to operate the house of worship vehicle, no prior written approval is required). Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action which may include termination of employment.
17. Every accident should be reported to **(insert title of individual or group within the house of worship that monitors motor vehicle accidents such as the Safety Director, house of worship Council, house of worship Board, etc.)**. The **INDIVIDUAL LISTED IN PRIOR SENTENCE** should investigate all accidents and review them with the employee or volunteer driving the house of worship owned or leased vehicle at the time of the accident. Note an example of a *Supervisor's Motor Vehicle Accident Investigation Report* in **Appendix D**.
18. When operating vehicles within the house of worship parking lot or at an off-premise function parking lot, speeds must not exceed 5 mph.
19. Drivers should not, at any time, operate a house of worship owned, leased, or privately owned vehicle (transporting house of worship members, volunteers, or visitors) if fatigued, if alcohol has been consumed or if legal or illegal substances have been consumed. These conditions can dramatically affect the driver's reaction time in the event of an emergency or impair the driver's judgment and thus increase the probability of a motor vehicle accident.

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN OPERATING VANS

1. All passengers and cargo transported in vans should be placed, if at all possible, **IN FRONT OF THE REAR AXLE OF THE VAN. This practice will help to decrease the probability of van rollover.**
2. All drivers of vans should require, without exception, passengers fill each row of seats beginning in the front of the vehicle prior to sitting in the rows towards the middle or rear of the vehicle. **This should help decrease the probability of van rollover accidents.**
3. All passenger van drivers should require, without exception, that each passenger within the van wear the seat and shoulder belt supplied with the vehicle prior to trip departure. Failure to wear the seat/shoulder belts should be grounds for removing the passenger from the vehicle. Approximately 80% of passengers that die in passenger van rollovers were not wearing seat belts and were ejected from the vehicle.
4. Within passenger vans, always place passengers 12 years of age or younger in rear seats (after the front seats are filled by adults or older children). This is extremely important if the vehicle is equipped with front or side air bags.
5. Passenger vans should not be used, at any time, to tow trailers or other vehicles.
6. Passenger vans should not be used, at any time, to transport cargo on the roof of the vehicle. This practice will increase the probability of the vehicle, with an already high center of gravity, being involved in a rollover accident.
7. On long trips, a minimum of two experienced drivers of passenger vans should travel in each vehicle. This will allow for changing of drivers prior to one becoming fatigued and operating a motor vehicle in an unsafe condition.
8. In addition to evaluating a prospective driver's motor vehicle record (MVR), each prospective driver of a passenger van should be required to complete a road test monitored by **(insert name of the individual or individuals responsible for evaluating motor vehicle safety at your house of worship)**. Those individuals that do not successfully complete a road test should not be permitted to operate a motor vehicle for your organization. A re-evaluation of the driver's skill level should not be permitted until the driver has successfully completed a defensive driving course or has obtained a minimum of one (1) year additional experience operating the vehicle for which he/she was being evaluated to operate.

9. Although not required within vans transporting less than 15-passengers and 1 driver, it is recommended that all drivers of vans with 10 or more passengers, including the driver, be required to have a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) or have passed a defensive driving course.
10. All drivers of vans with 10 or more passengers should be required to have a minimum of 1 year experience driving equipment similar to the type for which they were hired by the house of worship.
11. Drivers of passenger vans with 10 or more passengers should be limited to those screened and hired for such purposes. Volunteers not meeting the above listed requirements should not be permitted, at any time, to operate vans transporting passengers.
12. All drivers of vans with 10 or more passengers should be informed of the potential for vehicle roll-over and preventive measures to avoid vehicle rollovers.
13. Vehicles should not be used for livery, taxiing or transportation of persons for pay or donations.
14. Vehicles should not be provided to other organizations or individuals for non-house of worship functions.
15. All 15-passenger vans must have a dual rear wheel system, after market Roadmaster Active Suspension (RAS) system or one of the following factory installed ESC (Electronic Stability Control) systems:
 - a. StabiliTrak
 - b. Advance Trac
 - c. Vehicle Dynamics Control
 - d. Precision Control System
16. All drivers of vans with 10 or more passengers should be required to sign a van safety acknowledgement form. Note an example of a *15-Passenger Van Safety Acknowledgement* in **Appendix F**.
17. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administrations 15-Passenger Van Safety Alert, designed to be hung from rearview mirrors within these vans, should be present in all such vehicles to remind drivers of methods to prevent vehicle rollover.
18. All vans with 10 or more passengers should be loaded from the front of the vehicle to the back. Passengers, luggage, and cargo should NOT be present behind the rear axle of the van, unless all seats in front of the rear axle are filled.
19. All vehicles should be equipped with a seatbelt for each passenger. Those vehicles not meeting these requirements should be retrofitted to add seatbelts for the rated capacity of the vehicles OR those seats without a seat belt for each passenger should be removed from the vehicle.
20. Van drivers should have a cell phone and a list of emergency numbers. The cell phone should be used for emergencies only, and is to be used only when the van is safely parked.
21. All van passengers should be requested to sign a passenger agreement before being allowed to ride in the van on trips. Note an example of a *Passenger Van Agreement* in **Appendix E**.

ACCIDENT REPORTING

1. **Driver Conduct at the Scene of the Accident**
 - a. Take immediate action to prevent further damage or injury.
 - (1) Pull onto the shoulder or side of the road.
 - (2) Activate hazard lights (flashers) and place warning signs promptly.
 - (3) Assist any injured person, but don't move them unless they are in danger of further injury.
 - b. Call the Police
If someone is injured, request medical assistance.

- c. The vehicle should not be left unattended, except in an extreme emergency.
- d. Exchange identifying information with the other driver. **Make no comments about assuming responsibility.**
- e. Secure names, addresses, and phone numbers of all witnesses, or the first person on the scene if no one witnessed the accident.
- f. Call the house of worship immediately and report the accident to the Safety Director or Supervisor.

2. Complete the Vehicle Accident Report Form

Complete the Vehicle Accident Report Form. A copy can be obtained from the **(insert title of person or group responsible for fleet safety within your house of worship here, such as Safety Director, Supervisor, house of worship Council, house of worship Board, etc.)** and provide it to the **(insert title of person listed that should receive completed Accident Report Form here)**. Write legibly. Answer all questions completely or mark “not known”. Use additional sheets of paper as needed to provide pertinent information. Note an example of a *Vehicle Accident Summary Report* in **Appendix C** and a *Supervisor’s Motor Vehicle Accident Investigation Report* in **Appendix D**.

INSPECTION RECORDS & PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

All drivers of house of worship owned or leased vehicles must regularly inspect and confirm that vehicles remain in good repair, and receive appropriate preventive maintenance in a timely manner. All vehicle parts and accessories must be in a safe and proper working order at all times. Note an example of a *Preventive Maintenance Report* in **Appendix B**. The following apply:

1. Within passenger vans, check tire pressure prior to each trip. The tires should not be OVER INFLATED OR UNDER INFLATED. The tire pressure should be equal to that recommended on the sidewall by the tire manufacturer or vehicle owner’s manual. Tire blowouts are one of the leading causes of van drivers losing control of vehicles and van rollovers occurring.
2. Prior to the start of each trip, a vehicle walk around inspection should be conducted by the driver. Any defective condition should be noted and corrective actions implemented prior to the start of the trip. Special attention should be given to leaking fluids, poor tire tread, frayed or damaged engine belts, headlight/taillight with defective bulbs, etc.
3. All van drivers must complete a vehicle inspection report at the beginning of each day the van is issued. Note an example of a *Vehicle Inspection Report* in **Appendix A**.
4. Drivers of all passenger vans should complete a vehicle Preventive Maintenance Report form on a monthly basis. Notify the **(insert title of individual that monitors fleet maintenance program here)** of any unsafe conditions or defective parts immediately. Before the vehicle is driven again, any safety defects must be repaired. Note an example of a *Preventive Maintenance Report* in **Appendix B**.
5. A copy of the last vehicle inspection report must be kept in the vehicle for at least 3 months.
6. Quarterly preventive maintenance must be conducted on each vehicle.
7. Maintenance and inspection records must be kept in the house of worship office with other important documents for 1 year or for 6 months after the vehicle is sold or the lease on the vehicle expires.
8. All vehicles are subject to a search at any time.

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

Note **Appendix G** for a list of helpful resources on 15-passenger vans.

Appendix A

VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT

(Use your safety belt)

Date: _____

House of Worship Name _____ Vehicle Number _____

Location (City, State) _____

Driver Name _____ Driver Signature _____

Instructions: Drivers will perform necessary inspections. A (√) indicates satisfactory condition. An (X) indicates unsafe or improper conditions. An (O) indicates condition does not apply. Corrected deficiencies should be circled by **(insert title of house of worship member(s) responsible for monitoring motor vehicle safety at the house of worship)**.

INSIDE

- Parking brake (apply)
- Apply brake

START ENGINE

- Oil pressure (light or gauge)
- Instrument panel (telltale lights, buzzer, gauges)
- Horn
- Windshield wiper and washer
- Heater-defroster
- Mirrors
- Steering wheel (excess play)
- Turn on all lights including 4-way flasher
- Starts properly

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

- Fire extinguishers
- Flags, standards, warning lights
- First-aid kit

FRONT

- Headlights
- Identification lights
- Turn signals and 4-way flasher

OTHER

SIDE

(Left) (Right)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fuel tank and cap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Side marker lights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reflectors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tires and wheels-lugs and serviceability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cargo tie-downs or doors |

REAR

- Tail lights
- Stop light
- Turn signals and 4-way flasher
- Identification lights
- Reflectors
- Rear end protection (bumper)
- Cargo tie-downs/doors

MECHANICAL OPERATION

- Engine knocks, misses, overheats, etc.
- Transmission noisy, hard shifting, jumps out of gear, other: _____
- Steering loose, shimmy, hard, other: _____
- Air, oil, water, leaks
- Springs broken, other: _____
- Brakes noisy, pulls soft, other: _____
- Speedometer, tachometer

Start time: _____ Mileage: _____ End time: _____ Mileage: _____

Remarks/Other Defects:

Defects corrected (initial) _____ Defect correction unnecessary (initial) _____
 Yes No

Certified by: _____ Date _____

Appendix B

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE REPORT

Date/Time _____ House of Worship _____ Location _____

Inspected by: _____ Employee I.D. Number _____

Vehicle License _____ Vehicle Number _____

	Satisfactory	Needs Attention
Brakes:		
Brake adjustment: <input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Right		
Brake hoses		
Brake drums		
Brake shoes		
Parking brake		
Brake pedal travel		
Steering		
Steering suspension		
Change in steering action		
Steering components		
Tires		
Wear/Defect		
Overloading		
Groove depth 2/32" minimum		
Wheels		
Cracks		
Loose Nuts		
Rims		
Windows		
Windows and Windshields		
Wipers and Washers		
Lights		
Headlights		
Taillights		
Turn signals		
Reflectors		
Mirrors		
Horn		
Instruments/Gauges		
Seat belts		
Battery		
Radiator and Hoses		
Exhaust system		
Suspension		
Fuel system		
Oil/Water leaks		
Oil level		
Water level		
Transmission		
Engine performance		
General condition of body and interior		

Comments:

Appendix D

SUPERVISOR'S MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

DRIVER	VEHICLE	DATE OF ACCIDENT										
LOCATION OF ACCIDENT		TIME OF ACCIDENT										
DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT: (What happened?)												
SEAT BELT WORN?												
CAUSES OF ACCIDENT: (Why did it happen?)												
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTION OF A RECURRENCE: (What should be done?)												
FOLLOW UP: (What actions were taken? Were they effective?)												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - INDICATE WITH DIAGRAM WHAT HAPPENED - SHOW POSITION OF VEHICLES - INDICATE DIRECTION (NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST) WITH ARROWS 	<p>CLASSIFICATION OF ACCIDENT REVIEW</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PREVENTABLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-PREVENTABLE</p> <hr/> <p>ACCIDENTS USUALLY PREVENTABLE</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Intersection</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Cut In or Out</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Backing</td> <td>Pulled from Curb</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hit Other in Rear</td> <td>Hit Stationary Object</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skidded</td> <td>Hit Pedestrian</td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <p>ACCIDENTS USUALLY NON-PREVENTABLE</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Hit in Rear</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Hit When Properly Parked</td> </tr> </table>		Intersection	Cut In or Out	Backing	Pulled from Curb	Hit Other in Rear	Hit Stationary Object	Skidded	Hit Pedestrian	Hit in Rear	Hit When Properly Parked
Intersection	Cut In or Out											
Backing	Pulled from Curb											
Hit Other in Rear	Hit Stationary Object											
Skidded	Hit Pedestrian											
Hit in Rear	Hit When Properly Parked											

Investigating House of Worship Employee's Signature

Date Of Report

Reviewed By Manager

Signature or member of (insert title of Senior House of Worship Leadership group such as House of Worship Council, House of Worship Trustee, etc.)

Reviewed by (insert name of individual selected to oversee motor vehicle safety for the House of Worship)

Date

Appendix E

PASSENGER VAN AGREEMENT

The following safety rules are designed for use prior to each trip regardless if it is taken in a house of worship owned or leased vehicle or a private vehicle. The driver for the trip will ensure all participants read and understand the following "rules for the road".

1. Seat belts must be worn at ALL times.
2. No hazardous, disruptive activity or noise will be permitted while the vehicle is moving. All passengers must follow the driver's requests.
3. Keep all objects inside the vehicle.
4. All windows must be kept clear of objects that may disrupt the driver's view.
5. In cases of a crash or emergency, stop and do not exit the vehicle unless instructed by the driver or a designee. Use caution and whenever possible, exit on the sidewalk or shoulder side of the vehicle, never on the traffic side.
6. Equipment and luggage should be properly secured.
7. Violation of these rules may result in the termination of the trip for the entire group or the removal of a participant from the trip.
8. The safety of others and myself is a priority on this trip.

I have read, understand and will comply with these rules during the entire trip.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Appendix F

15-PASSENGER VAN SAFETY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Anyone who may, for any reason, need to drive a house of worship owned, rented or leased vehicle for the purpose of transporting 10-15 passengers must complete the 15-Passenger Van Safety Training program and initial/sign this form.

Acknowledgement of the possible risk associated with operating a 15-passenger van.

1. 15-passenger vans have a rollover risk similar to other light trucks and vans.
2. The risk of rollover increases dramatically as the number of occupants is increased from fewer than five to more than ten. Vans should be loaded according to manufacturer's recommendations.
3. The weight of the van, particularly when fully occupied, causes the center of gravity to shift rearward and upward increasing the likelihood of rollover.
4. The shift in the center of gravity will also increase the potential for loss of control in panic maneuvers.
5. The weight of the van when fully occupied requires additional stopping distance.
6. The width of the van allows for less lane room.
7. The length of the van increases distance needed for making turns, changing lanes and backing.

I have read and understand the possible risk involved while operating a 15-passenger van.

_____ (initials)

I am aware that the handling characteristics of a 15-passenger van may change dramatically, especially when fully loaded. Extra caution is required when operating this vehicle.

_____ (initials)

The wearing of seat belts by the operator and passengers are mandatory at all times.

_____ (initials)

I have completed the required 15-passenger van defensive driver training and road test.

_____ (initials)

Operator's Name: _____ Department: _____

Operator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix G

OTHER INFORMATIONAL SOURCES

15-Passenger Van Information

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Insurance Institute of Highway Safety
www.hwysafety.org

National Transportation Safety Board
www.nts.gov

NCAA
www.ncaa.org

National Safety Council
www.nsc.org

For more information, contact:

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