

Preventing Large Passenger Van Rollover Accidents

Drive Defensively

- Scan ahead, looking for potential hazards.
- Anticipate unsafe actions of others, such as pulling out in front of you, not stopping at intersections, quickly changing lanes in front of you, stopping in front of you for no reason, etc.
- Ensure you have adequate space before pulling onto roadways or merging.



Wellbeing

Ensure you are well rested, not feeling ill or under the influence of drugs or alcohol; including prescription drugs that could impede your performance.

Cellphones and Navigation

- Put your cellphone on do-not-disturb mode and do not use it.
- Set up navigation systems before leaving.



Limit Distractions:

- Keep your mind focused on your driving duties and your eyes focused on the forward roadway.
- When checking mirrors, limit glances to under 1.5 seconds, preferably less.
- Pull over to a safe place to park to address passenger issues.

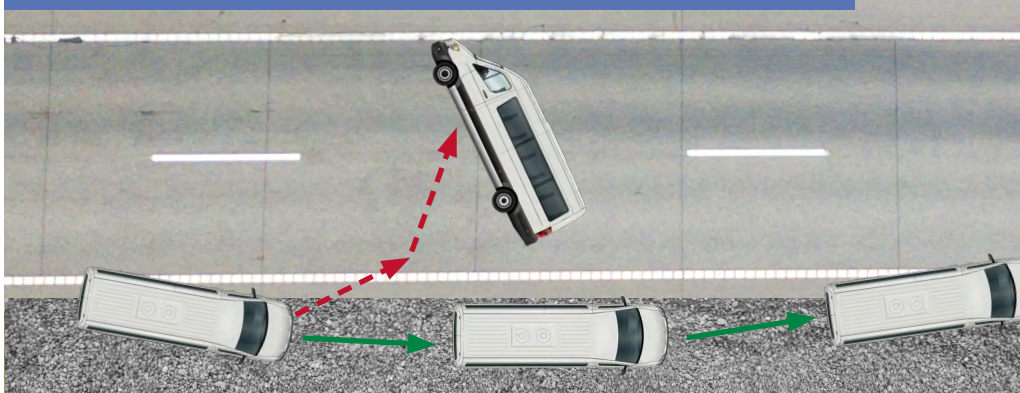
Seatbelts

Require all passengers to wear a seatbelt. 77% of occupants killed in single-vehicle large van crashes were unrestrained.¹

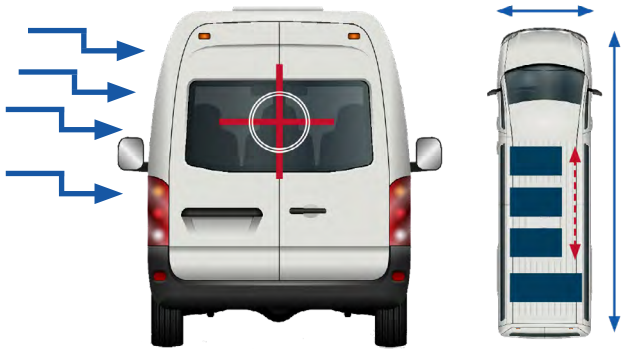
77%

Over-correcting

- Over-correcting in vans often leads to instability and roll-overs. Use caution when turning in emergency situations.
- If you leave the pavement, try not to over-correct. Try to keep your wheels straight on the shoulder and slow down gradually. Return to the pavement when at a safe speed.



¹ Fatalities to Occupants of 15-Passenger Vans, 2003-2007 National Highway Transportation Administration. DOT HS 811 143, May 2009



Instability

Large passenger vans have more instability due to:

- A higher center of gravity, which gets higher as more passengers and cargo are loaded.
- Length of stance - distance between front tires and rear tires (length to width ratio).
- Seating configurations that place excess weight on the left rear tire (due to walkway to the rear seats being on right side).
- Crosswind impact on high flat sides.

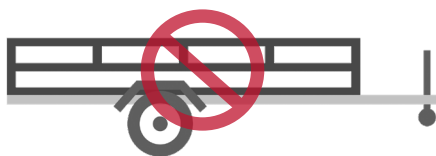
Tires

Complete thorough pre- and post-trip inspections. Place a special emphasis on tires and proper inflation. A NHTSA van tire pressure study found 74% of vans had at least one tire under or over inflated by 25% or more.



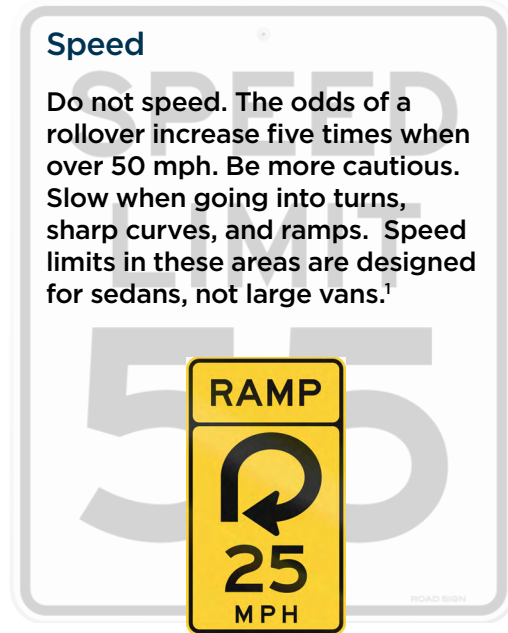
Loading and Capacity

Review owner's manual. Know your van's passenger and cargo capacity as well as loading instructions. Do not overload. Load forward of rear axle first. No cargo on roof or towing trailers.



Speed

Do not speed. The odds of a rollover increase five times when over 50 mph. Be more cautious. Slow when going into turns, sharp curves, and ramps. Speed limits in these areas are designed for sedans, not large vans.¹



Following Distance

Maintain a minimum four second following distance. Increase your following distance as you add passengers and cargo and during inclement weather.

When the vehicle in front of you passes a fixed object begin counting, "one one-thousand, two one-thousand..." If you pass the fixed object before four, slow down and count again.



One one-thousand, two one-thousand, three one-thousand, four one-thousand



¹ Analysis of Crashes Involving 15-Passenger Vans, National Highway Transportation Administration, DOT HS 809 735, May 2004