

**PASSENGER VAN DRIVER
SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT**

**Risk Management and Insurance
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164-1045
509-335-6893**

See S35.14.

Each University passenger van driver is required to complete this form prior to *initial* operation of a passenger van. The department files the original of the signed form and provides a copy to the driver.

Risks Associated with Operating a Passenger Van

1. Washington State law requires seat belt use. The passenger van driver must ensure that all passengers have buckled their seat belts prior to moving the van.
2. Passenger vans have a rollover risk similar to other light trucks and vans.
3. The risk of rollover increases dramatically as the number of occupants is increased from six to nine. Passenger vans should be loaded by filling the **front seats first**.
4. The weight of the van, particularly when fully occupied, causes the center of gravity to shift rearward and upward increasing the likelihood of rollover.
5. The shift in the center of gravity will also increase the potential for loss of control in panic maneuvers.
6. The weight of the van when fully occupied requires additional stopping distance, an especially important factor in rain, fog, or other difficult driving situations caused by weather conditions.
7. The width of the van allows for less lane room.
8. The length of the van increases distance needed for making turns, changing lanes, and braking.
9. General maintenance of the vehicle, including proper tire pressure, is important to safety and can be referenced in the vehicle owner's manual.

Considering the above described van characteristics, safe operation of vans increases when drivers apply the following **SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES**:

- Adhering to posted speed limits.
- Adjusting to lower speeds than posted during conditions of rain, snow, fog, or other conditions that affect visibility, stopping distance, or general safe handling of the vehicle.
- Minimizing potential driver distraction by using cell phone or other electronic devices when the van is safely stopped, asking passengers to assist with calls when needed, etc.
- Properly loading passengers and equipment, and never placing equipment on the top of vans.
- Minimizing driver fatigue on long trips by one or more of the following: driving rested, taking appropriate breaks, or sharing driving with authorized drivers.
- Not using alcohol or drugs, including prescription medicine that warns of drowsiness or similar effects.

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| • I have read and understand the possible risks involved while operating a passenger van. | (Initial) _____ |
| • I am aware the handling characteristics of a passenger van may change dramatically, especially when fully loaded. | (Initial) _____ |
| • I understand that extra caution is required when operating passenger vans. | (Initial) _____ |
| • I understand that seat belt use by driver/passengers in passenger vans is mandatory at all times. | (Initial) _____ |

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|---------------------|------------|
| DRIVER NAME (Print) | DATE |
| DRIVER SIGNATURE | DEPARTMENT |