



Policies and Procedures

Use of 15 Passenger Vans

Introduction:

In 2001 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued an advisory regarding the increased risk of rollover of fully loaded 15-passenger vans. NHTSA issued the consumer advisory after finding the vans are three times more likely to roll over in a single-vehicle accident when carrying ten or more passengers. The NHTSA findings indicated that, when fully loaded, a large van's center of gravity shifts up and to the back, increasing the risk of rollovers, especially in panic maneuvers by drivers. The advisory also noted that inexperienced drivers are most likely to be involved in rollover accidents with these vans.

Restrictions on drivers of 15-passenger vans:

Syracuse Campus

Only College employees (State or Research Foundation) and graduate students are authorized to drive 15-passenger vans. Undergraduate students are not allowed to drive 15-passenger vans regardless of employment status.

Based on NHTSA recommendations, all drivers of the 15-passenger vans in the Syracuse campus fleet will be required to complete the *Request for Use of 15-passenger Van* form (sample attached) and to certify that they have a minimum of five (5) years of driving experience.

All drivers of 15-passenger vans are also expected to follow these guidelines:

- Passengers shall fill the front seats of the vehicle first.
- All passengers must wear seat belts at all times.
- Never load anything on the roof of these vans.
- Drive conservatively, avoiding sharp turns, excessive speed and abrupt maneuvers.

Wanakena Campus

Only faculty and staff will be authorized by the Director of the Forest Technology Program to drive the 15-passenger vans that are located at the Wanakena campus.