



Adventist Risk  
Management, Inc.



# 15-PASSENGER VANS DANGEROUS AND DEADLY

*Fifteen-passenger vans should not be used  
to transport our members or children.*

***Do not use 15-passenger vans any longer.***

Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership actively prohibits the use of 15-passenger vans across the North American Division (NAD). Unfortunately, many Adventist churches and schools continue to use, buy, or rent these dangerous vehicles.

## WHY ARE 15-PASSENGER VANS DANGEROUS?

Fifteen-passenger vans were originally designed for transporting cargo, not passengers. The design of these vehicles places more weight towards the front of the vehicle, making 15-passenger vans unbalanced and extremely likely to rollover when loaded.

Other 15-passenger van risks that make rollover accidents more likely are:

- A high center of gravity, increased with passenger seating
- Instability in crosswinds
- Seating configurations that place excessive weight on one side
- Under-inflated tires, resulting in tire failure or blowouts that cause the driver to lose control of the vehicle.

## FATALITY FACTS

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that:

- An average of **65 Americans die each year in crashes while riding in 15-passenger vans.**
- Nearly **60 percent of fatalities in these crashes were in vehicles that rolled over.**
- About **50 percent of the fatalities** occurred in vans **loaded to capacity (10+ occupants)** that rolled over.
- About **59 percent of the fatally injured** van occupants in rollovers were **not restrained.**

The Adventist Church has had several accidents in which people, including children, have lost their lives in 15-passenger



vans. These losses of life are tragic and would have been prevented if a 15-passenger van was not used.

## WHAT TO DO WITH VANS YOUR MINISTRY ALREADY OWNS

Sell them and replace them with structurally safer and more stable alternatives such as 15-passenger buses with dual rear wheels and buses. Our members, visitors and volunteers deserve our best efforts of care. We must not compromise.

The short-term financial savings can be tempting when looking to purchase or rent one of these dangerous vans, but more important than any cost saving is preventing the loss of life. We must not be the church that is known to compromise the safety of its members and visitors. We can and must do so much better.

**Take action today:** Remove any 15-passenger vans from your fleet and discontinue use of all 15-passenger vans.

*“We must remove these dangerous vans from our use.* Not only is the financial burden too great to ignore, but also we cannot afford to distract one soul from being reached for the kingdom. *We cannot lose another life.* Friends, it is time to *fully remove 15 passenger vans from use* by Seventh-day Adventist organizations.” —Dan Jackson, North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church president



## 15-PASSENGER VAN MYTHS BUSTED

**MYTH:** If I take out a row of seats from the 15-passenger van, it is then an approved form of transportation.

**FACT:** Removing a row of seats does not make it an approved form of transportation. The vehicle is still the same type of van with the same inherent flaws.

**MYTH:** If I use a van that is privately owned, my church won't be held liable.

**FACT:** Using a privately owned 15-passenger van or even renting a 15-passenger van for a church activity does not remove the liability from the church.

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