

Also, a mistake like overcorrecting your steering as a reaction to an emergency can cause the 15-passenger van to roll over due to the van's high center of gravity.

If you have a van wheel drop off the side of the road, the key thing to remember is to keep your wheels straight. Without severe braking, slow the van down until it is almost at a complete stop; then slowly return to the roadway.

Keys to Reducing Rollover Risks

- Use only high-quality, low mileage tires; and inspect them weekly for proper inflation and tread wear.
- Keep the gas tank as full as possible to lower the vehicle's center of gravity.
- Do not overload the van.
- Never load items on the roof.
- Fill the front seats first, and permanently remove the back seat.
- Do not pull a trailer, and remove the trailer hitch.
- Consider installing dual rear tires on the van to improve stability, or upgrade the suspension.

Create Accident Response and Reporting Procedures

Finally, in case an accident does occur, it's wise for the church to establish accident response and reporting procedures for drivers to follow. These will help the driver act in the most effective manner and record vital information about the accident and individuals involved.

Essentially, this is a two-step process, which involves using an "Accident Report Information" (directions) form and a "Preliminary Traffic Accident Report" form.

The "Accident Report Packet" is also available on this site.

Your passengers are putting their safety and comfort in your hands, so it is important you understand how to operate a 15-passenger van safely. Being prepared can help make sure that every trip will be an enjoyable and safe one.