

Important Notice On 15 Passenger Vans

The Diocese of Syracuse Protected Self-Insurance Program will no longer cover any newly purchased or newly acquired 15-passenger vans. This is due to the safety concerns that have arisen with these types of vehicles. We recommend that you look for viable transportation alternatives or the purchase of vans that hold 12 or less. We will continue to insure the existing 15-passenger vans, currently on our vehicle records, but we look to the locations which currently have these to make plans to remove these from their vehicle fleets within the next year (by 7/1/09). At that time, any remaining 15 passenger vans may be required to be insured outside of our Self Insurance Program (certificates of insurance with additional insured wording will be required).

Also, effective 7/1/08, the collision/comprehensive deductible on 15-passenger vans will be \$1,000.

Additionally, please make note of the following recommendations and requirements in regards to the use of 15-passenger vehicles:

- 15-Passenger Vans should not be rented at any time. No certificates of insurance will be provided for rentals of 15-passenger vans.
- Do not make use of the luggage roof racks. Putting luggage or cargo on the roof adds to the instability of these vehicles.
- Seat passengers and place cargo forward of the rear axle whenever possible.
- Avoid conditions that lead to loss of control. Drive cautiously on curved roads and hills. Maintain a safe speed. If a wheel or wheels drop off the roadway, do not overreact or overcorrect. Gradually reduce speed and steer back onto the road.
- Properly maintain the vehicle tires. Make sure they are inflated accurately and that the tread is not worn down. Check the tires at least once a week.
- Insist that the driver and all passengers wear their seatbelts.

If you have any questions in regards to these recommendations and requirements, please contact the Diocese of Syracuse Risk Management Office at 315-470-1496.