

Vanpool Safety Tips

RECOGNIZE THE SIZE AND WEIGHT DIFFERENCES OF THE VEHICLE

- It is important to know the height, width, and length of the vehicle you are driving. This information is contained in the Owner's Manual. When you are driving a van that is taller, wider, and longer than other vehicles, you must operate it differently. Whenever possible, park in spaces where you are not required to back out. Allow extra space on both sides of your vehicle when approaching a gas pump or making turns in a parking lot. Approach overhead clearances with caution and be sure you know the height clearance of your van. Proceed slowly.

KEEP EXTRA FOLLOWING DISTANCE

- Allow ample room between you and the vehicles around you. One difference between a large van and a car is the van's extra height. The van's height obstructs the view for those drivers behind the vehicle. You need to provide the extra cushion of safety not only for yourself, but also for motorists behind you because they cannot see, as you can, traffic events developing ahead. When the van is filled with passengers, the additional weight requires more braking time. When driving a van, use a **four second** space cushion (in lieu of a two second space cushion typically used in automobiles). The space cushion affords you the time required to start applying your brakes sooner than you would in a car in order to come to a smooth, complete stop.

CHANGE LANES WITH CAUTION

- Vans are longer and wider than cars and special care must be taken when changing lanes. Most vans are equipped with combination side-view mirrors and convex lenses to help eliminate blind spots. Check your blind spots frequently while driving. Signal your lane change well in advance and begin your maneuver slowly.

Vanpool Safety Tips

RURAL ROADS

- Be especially cautious on rural, mountainous, and curved roads. Maintain a safe speed to avoid running off the road. Unexpected occurrences can happen to the best, most alert drivers in any type of vehicle. For example, if your wheels drift onto the shoulder of the road, slow down gradually, letting up on the accelerator while steering the vehicle straight ahead. If you must brake, do so gradually and gently. Hard panic braking or attempting to re-enter the flow of traffic too quickly could result in a dangerous loss of control. Pull back onto the roadway only when you have reduced your speed to a point where it is safe to do so and when traffic conditions permit.

MOST IMPORTANTLY: DRIVE WITH CARE

ACT Member Resources



www.vanpool.com



www.vride.com

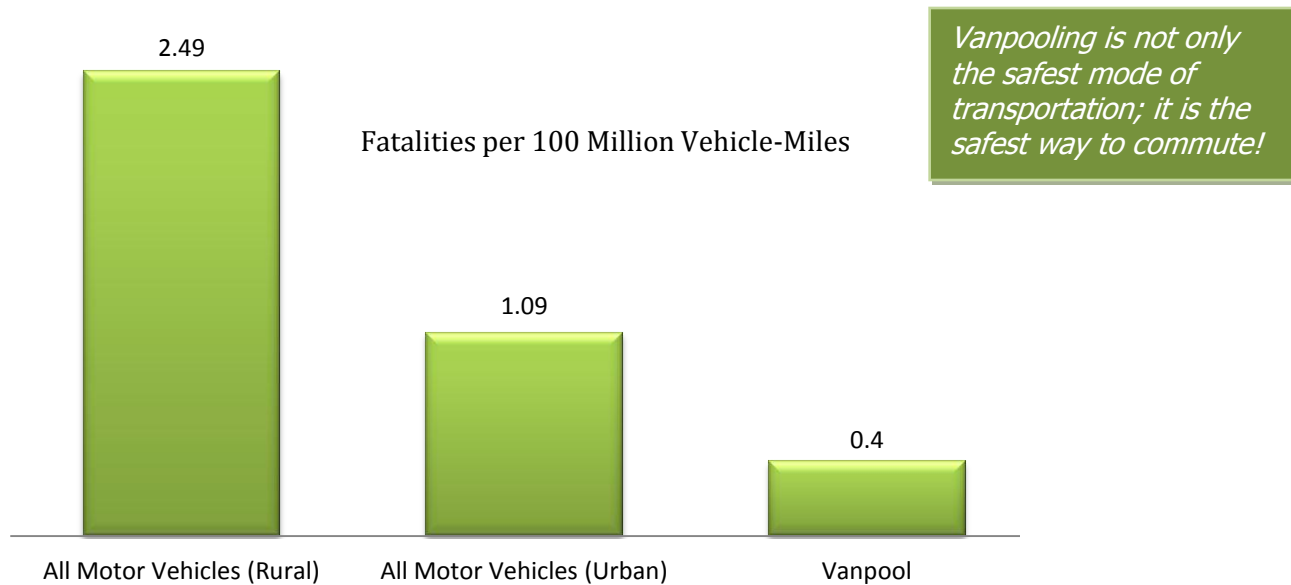


Vanpool Safety Brochure

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Vanpools: The Safest Mode of Transportation



“Transit Safety and Security Statistics and Analysis Annual Report” by mode for reported fatalities 1990-2012
Source: National Transit Database and Bureau of Transportation Statistics, USDOT (June, 3 2012)

Vanpooling is the Safest Mode of Commuting, Why?

- **Vanpool drivers are experienced handling 9-15 passenger vehicles** – Most vanpool drivers have several years of experience driving their 9-15 passenger vehicle.
- **Driving Conditions are Typically Safer** – Generally, most vanpools operate in an urban setting on major highways and with traffic conditions that do not allow dangerous speeds to be obtained.
- **Peer Pressure** – If you think one back seat driver is too many, imagine having 14. Pressure from fellow passengers keeps most drivers operating in a safe manner, if the peer pressure does not work, passengers will often switch vans or discontinue usage, weeding out bad drivers.
- **Training** – Before operating the vehicle, volunteer drivers go through a certain level of training that allows them to become comfortable operating the vehicles.

Vanpool Safety Tips

WATCH SAFETY VIDEOS AND FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE VEHICLE

- Drivers should watch safety videos, ask questions, and get familiar with the vehicle in a safe environment before driving passengers regularly.

ONLY APPROVED DRIVERS SHOULD OPERATE THE VEHICLE

- Only approved volunteer drivers should operate a vanpool vehicle. Be sure your group has an approved volunteer driver ready at all times to drive. Anticipate vacation and holiday schedules.

ALL PASSENGERS SHOULD WEAR SAFETY BELTS

- Utilizing seat belts is the single most effective measure you and your passengers can take to reduce the risk of injury or death in the event of a serious accident. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that seat belts are operable and available for all seating positions, and for insisting that everyone buckle up.

DO NOT USE CELL PHONES OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Merely handling a cell phone, let alone talking on one is a major distraction for a driver and increases the risk of an accident.

KEEP TIRES PROPERLY INFLATED

- Checking and maintaining proper tire pressure is one of the most important safety precautions you can take.