



Utica National's **Risk MANAGEMENT ALERT** for Religious Institutions

Utica National Insurance Risk Management Department Bulletin

Driver Selection and Training - 15 Passenger Vans

Those selected to drive your vehicles not only have a serious responsibility, but are also asked to abide by and enforce sometimes unpopular rules – like no horseplay and the wearing of seatbelts. Proper screening procedures can help determine if potential drivers are, in fact, good candidates.

It is best to limit the overall number of qualified drivers and assign a particular driver to a particular vehicle, when possible. Always avoid situations where drivers who have not qualified but are on your driver's list do, in fact, drive your vehicles. Below is a list of driver screening tips:

- Usually a regular license is adequate, although a CDL licensed driver is a plus.
- Drivers under 25 and older than 65 can pose significant increases in exposure to accidents. Youthful drivers simply lack the experience, especially with driving a 15-passenger van. Older drivers often have decreased reaction times, along with physical and visual impairment.
- It is best to target drivers with as much driving experience as possible. Inexperienced drivers have more accidents. Drivers with past experience driving vans are often best. Accident history has shown that many accidents are the result of drivers not having experience with the handling of a long vehicle with a high center of gravity.
- Make sure you or your producer obtain job candidates' driving records before hire and annually thereafter. The best drivers are usually those without multiple moving violations and/or reckless driving tickets. Remember, if a driver with a poor record is hired by your organization and is the cause of a serious accident, your organization can be found at least partially culpable.

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