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FM COMNAVSAFECEN NORFOLK VA//42//
TO ALSAFE
BT
UNCLAS //N05100//
ALSAFE 015/01
MSGID/GENADMIN/COMNAVSAFECEN/42-101/MAY//
SUBJ/HAZARD ALERT - 15 PASSENGER VAN//
RMKS/1. THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (NHTSA)
RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A CAUTIONARY WARNING TO OPERATORS OF 15 PASSENGER
VANS. NHTSA'S ANALYSIS REVEALED THAT 15 PASSENGER VANS HAVE A
ROLLOVER RISK SIMILAR TO OTHER LIGHT TRUCKS AND VANS WHEN CARRYING
A SMALL NUMBER OF PASSENGERS. IN 15 PASSENGER VANS, HOWEVER, THE
RISK OF ROLLOVER INCREASES DRAMATICALLY AS THE NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS
IS INCREASED FROM FEWER THAN FIVE TO MORE THAN TEN. LOADING THE 15
PASSENGER VAN CAUSES THE CENTER OF GRAVITY TO SHIFT REARWARD AND
UPWARD, INCREASING THE LIKELIHOOD OF ROLLOVER. THE SHIFT IN THE
CENTER OF GRAVITY ADDITIONALLY INCREASES THE POTENTIAL FOR LOSS OF
CONTROL IN PANIC MANEUVERS.
2. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THESE VANS BE OPERATED BY EXPERIENCED
DRIVERS. OPERATORS OF THESE VEHICLES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO POSSESS
A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE. IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED, HOWEVER,
THAT DRIVERS ATTEND THE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE (AAA) DRIVER IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM PRIOR TO OPERATION. DRIVERS SHOULD UNDERSTAND AND BE
FAMILIAR WITH THE HANDLING CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE VANS, ESPECIALLY
WHEN FULLY LOADED. WEARING SAFETY BELTS DRAMATICALLY INCREASES THE
CHANCES OF SURVIVAL DURING A ROLLOVER. INDIVIDUALS RIDING AS
PASSENGERS IN THESE VANS, AS WELL AS DRIVERS, ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A
SAFETY BELT AT ALL TIMES.
3. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CRASH CHARACTERISTICS
OF 15 PASSENGER VEHICLES, CONTACT NHTSA. CALL THE AUTO
SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 OR GO TO THE NHTSA WEBSITE,
HTTP:(DOUBLE SLASH)WWW.NHTSA.DOT.GOV/PEOPLE/NCSA/REPORTS.HTML FOR A
COPY OF THE NHTSA ANALYSIS OF ROLLOVER CHARACTERISTICS OF 15
PASSENGER VANS.//

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