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NHTSA reissues 15-passenger van safety caution

The Kansas Departments of Revenue and Transportation have joined forces to remind owners of 15-passenger vans of safety issues associated with these vehicles.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently released a consumer advisory specifically addressing these vans. Two recent fatality crashes in New York and Georgia prompted the advisory. The crashes involved 15-passenger vans that rolled, resulting in 10 deaths.

“In partnership with KDOT, we have drafted a letter to all registered owners of these vehicles,” said Secretary of Revenue Joan Wagon. “This letter gives important consumer information as well as a link to the NHTSA consumer advisory. Registered owners of these vehicles should be receiving this communication within the next several days.”

Here are some safety tips for those who travel in 15-passenger vans:

- If you are the owner, make sure the vehicle is properly maintained.
- Owners should make sure drivers are fully-trained and experienced in operating a 15-passenger van and are properly licensed.
- 15-passenger vans are very sensitive to loading and should not be overloaded.
- Owners should make sure that properly-sized tires are being used on their vehicles.
- Before every trip, drivers should check the tires for proper inflation and make sure there are no signs of wear.

“Safety on Kansas roadways is our number one priority,” said Transportation Secretary Deb Miller. “While this information is specific to 15-passenger vans, it is important for all vehicle operators to properly maintain their vehicles, make sure everyone is properly restrained and focus your full attention on driving.”

Additional information on the advisory can be found at
<http://www.ksdot.org/burTrafficSaf/news/nhtsacaution15passvan.pdf>.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information,
700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.