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NTSI Launches Van Safety Curriculum in Effort to Prevent Future Rollover Deaths

(TUCSON, Ariz.) --- Drivers of multi-passenger vans assume decidedly different responsibilities than drivers of standard automobiles, harnessing a unique set of skills required to keep their passengers safe. However, the recent spike in injuries and deaths due to van rollovers suggests widespread ignorance about this important distinction, and the National Traffic Safety Institute (NTSI) has responded. Earlier this month, the NTSI unveiled its new multi-passenger van driver safety curriculum, which is currently being rolled out in classes throughout Arizona. Plans are also in place to expand this program to the 25 other states served by NTSI and its agent licensees.

The new program covers all aspects of van safety including unique blind spots, significant weight differences, defensive driving techniques, vehicle inspection protocol, and altered centers of gravity when loaded. It also covers the driving differences between a van and a standard automobile, as well as underscoring the federal requirement for drivers to hold a "CDL Class C" license, which is often overlooked by van operators. The curriculum is provided via DVDs, a video tape, and a training manual.

"Our research suggests that individuals who are operating multi-passenger vans are not getting the specialized training they require," stated Paul Hallums, President of NTSI. "Driving fully-

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loaded vans with bare minimum driving skills is no different than giving the pilot of a small Cessna the keys to a commercial jet,” he continued. “People are dying on our streets, deaths that are 100 percent preventable, and we must empower drivers with the tools they need to get their passengers to their destinations safely.”

Course locations and schedules can be obtained by contacting NTSI at 866-346-3283.

Founded in 1974, the National Traffic Safety Institute has trained millions of people across the country to be safer drivers. It remains the nation’s oldest and largest traffic safety program, and stands among the nation’s most valuable and reliable community services.

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