

## King County Metro Commuter Vans Earthquake Preparedness Bulletin

### **Commuter Van Drivers & Participants**

Recent devastating earthquakes worldwide destroyed roads and bridges making travel dangerous and routes impassable. Your vanpool is an important part of your daily commute and because we live in the Pacific Northwest with its seismic activity potential, staying prepared for earthquakes and possible safety concerns and impact to your commute is good practice.

As a result of any ground shaking, it may not be safe or practical to continue driving your commuter van. As always, your best course of action is to ensure your safety and that of your fellow commuter van riders.

### **During an earthquake?**

- If you are driving - stay calm and pull over in a safe spot to wait out the shaking.
- Avoid pulling over or parking next to potentially vulnerable structures, buildings or facilities.
- Remain alert for tsunami warnings.

### **Directly after an earthquake?**

In the immediate aftermath of an earthquake you will need to anticipate certain roadway conditions that may become present after the shaking.

### **Please watch for:**

- Damaged, displaced or buckled roadways and bridge decking
- Street closures by first responders and transportation officials
- Gridlocked streets and abandoned vehicles blocking right-of-way
- Downed and/or damaged power lines and supporting infrastructure
- General loss of power—traffic signals out; treat all stops as four-way stops
- Sporadic or complete loss of communications systems
- Roads closed due to landslides
- Broken glass; building materials in roadways; hanging signs/streetlamps/signals
- Partially or completely collapsed buildings
- Areas with liquefaction – this is when water and/or sand is forced up from the ground in an otherwise previously dry area as a result of the shaking
- Once everyone is safe, please check in with your KC Metro Commuter Van maintenance rep concerning the status of your vehicle and if there is any damage.

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## What can you do before an earthquake?

Be prepared. Since we can't predict an earthquakes or the damage that could occur, it is best to have a plan in place before one does.

- If conditions are hazardous, do not drive you van. Find an alternative way home or to work.
- Have current contact information for your vanpool groups – phone, text, email and alternate numbers.
- Create an emergency disaster plan with your vanpool group – have a substitute travel plan, or several, in the event your vanpool can't maneuver safely to or from work.
  - Know alternate ways to get to/from work in case of roadway closures.
  - Have your group make an assessment of the potential hazards and vulnerable locations your group might face along your route if there were to be a serious earthquake. Take note of potential trouble spots. What roadways, bridges, overpasses and buildings/facilities are along your route? Is your route along a waterway that could be vulnerable to tsunamis?
- Familiarize yourself with any temporary shelter or congregation areas along your route in case you would need to pull over and shelter-in-place.
- Just like at home and work, if practical, have an emergency/survival kit in your van for each of your riders.

Call your Rideshare Service Representative during regular business hours (8am - 5pm). If you don't know your representative's number or it is after hours, call **206-625-4500** and our staff or the on-call staff will be paged.

Be sure to have the following:

- Your vehicle HOV number, (for example HOV 123456)
- Your exact location
- Your van's condition and/or suspected problem
- A phone number where you can be reached

If your vehicle becomes disabled or stuck, call us immediately at **206-625-4500**

***Thank you for being a King County Metro commuter vanpooler! Need help or have questions about your KC Metro Rideshare Commuter Van? Call us at 206-625-4500.***



kingcounty.gov/metrovans  
206-625-4500

