



CRUM & FORSTER®

A FAIRFAX COMPANY



RESIDENT TRANSPORTATION WHEELCHAIR SAFETY

Transporting elderly residents safely is a major concern for today's assisted living communities. Many residents need consistent transportation to and from daytime outings, routine medical appointments or other facilities for specialized care. While transportation is key to providing quality resident care, fragile seniors are at greater risk for transport-related injuries. Assisted living community vehicle operators are responsible for the safety of their passengers at all times, whether boarding or in transit. Serious accidents can occur while elderly passengers are being loaded onto a transport vehicle in a wheelchair. We are proud to partner and be a resource to you as you help to reduce transportation risks within your community. Please review the following guidelines designed to increase the safety of your wheelchair-bound residents being transported.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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When entering the vehicle

- The person in the wheelchair shall be backed onto the lift. Ensure the rear wheels are closest to the van and the wheelchair cannot tip backwards off the end of the lift.
- Maintain control of the wheelchair at all times.
- Lock the wheelchair brakes while on lift. This minimizes the risk of having the wheelchair roll while on the platform.
- Do not use the gate barrier to stop the wheelchair.
- Never ride on the lift with the person in a wheelchair.
- Never let anyone standing ride the lift. If a resident is having difficulty climbing stairs into or out of van/bus, they should be safely put in wheelchair to ride the lift.
- Ensure the person in the wheelchair has his/her limbs within the wheelchair frame, to avoid injury.
- Some wheelchairs are equipped with removable arm and leg rests; therefore always hold the wheelchair by the frame.
- Never leave a wheelchair-bound person unattended while on the lift. Always stand on the ground, directly next to the lift when assisting this person.
- Power wheelchairs shall be turned off once on the lift.

When exiting the vehicle

- Bring the person in the wheelchair forward onto the lift.
- Follow all above precautions.

When transporting a passenger

- Lock the brakes on the wheelchair.
- Attach the front straps first.
- Make sure the tie-downs are tight and secure permitting no movement of the wheelchair.
- If using a track and belts, attach them to the wheelchair, preferably at a joint (forty-five degree angles are optimum).
- Always use a seat belt for you and your passengers.
- Use passenger restraints. Ensure the passenger restraint belts fit securely. Do not go over the armrests.

When operating the lift

- Ensure the lift is fully retracted before opening or closing the door. Failure to do so will damage the lift.
- Cutting or pinching the cord is one of the most common operator errors.
- Dropping the hand pendant will damage the switches.
- Look for fluid leakage on lifts.
- Know the emergency back-up operations on your lift.
- Ensure that when raising the lift, the van doors are fully open.
- Immediately report unusual noises or lift malfunctions.

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