AIG

Wheelchair/Scooter Securement Procedure

Millions of Americans confined to wheelchairs rely daily on being transported in vans and buses. These wheelchair consumers require transportation as a means for getting to and from their jobs, doctor appointments, shopping, and recreation just to name a few. As a result properly securing the wheelchair in the vehicle is critical in reducing the exposure to injury during an accident, sudden stops and/or turns. Consider the following tips for properly securing a wheelchair/scooter in a van or bus.

Wheelchair Passenger Handling

- The driver must ensure that wheelchairs, scooters and consumers are secured properly prior to transporting the consumer to their destination.
- One of the most important aspects when transporting consumers is to drive in a manner to avoid hard turns, sudden stops or accelerations, driving over curbs or through potholes and most of all avoid becoming involved in an accident. All of these situations have the potential to dislodge the consumer from the wheelchair.
- Wheelchairs should be secured with a minimum of four anchor/strap points.
- The consumer should be secured by shoulder/seat belts.
- Scooters and wheelchairs have basic similarities but the driver and/or helper must ensure they can identify differences that might cause a dangerous securement situation.
- Carefully select lift and ramp equipment and ensure that employees are thoroughly trained how to utilize this equipment.

Three-Wheeled Scooter (TWS) Securement

- Place the TWS in the securement area
- Turn off TWS power
- Lock wheels
- Use a minimum of three TWS securement straps, one at each corner and lower rear midpoint of the TWS.
- Use a minimum of one securement strap for the front wheel.
- Lock the wheels if equipped.

Wheelchair (ADA) / Lift Training

- When operating the lift the operator should never stand on the lift
- Operator should communicate with the consumer, so they are aware of what is going to occur next and to establish a certain level of comfort
- Avoid distractions (cell Phone Use) when operating the lift
- Wheelchair goes on lift backwards/unless requested to go forward
- Wheelchair power off on lift
- Brakes on wheelchair need to be applied on the lift and vehicle
- Make sure lift is in the up position to unload wheelchair
- Wheelchair always faces forward in vehicle

- ABC’s of wheelchairs
  - Arms (make sure arms are close to their sides)
  - Belts (all belts secured)
  - Clicks (listen for click on everything for securement)
- Wheelchairs must have 4 point tie-down
- Use a 3 point seat belt securement for wheelchair consumers.
- Respect passenger’s wheelchair as their personal property
- Have knowledge of all tie-down operation/pick up straps