



If You're Involved in a Collision

Being prepared
can save lives
and money.

A collision is serious business in the eyes of the law. If you're involved in a collision, you must stop. If you don't, you could be convicted of "hit and run" and be severely punished. Here's what you should do if you're involved in a collision.

Get Off the Road

If possible, get your vehicle out of traffic and park safely. Place reflecting triangles or other warning devices 200 to 300 feet behind the vehicles to warn approaching motorists. Do not use flares if there is a chance of spilled gasoline nearby.

First Aid

Give your first attention to anyone who appears injured. If you know how, use emergency first aid where needed, and notify the police or highway patrol as soon as possible. The police should be told what kinds of injuries there are, such as bleeding, unconsciousness, stopped breathing, as well as if there are fire hazards such as spilled gasoline.

Exchange Identification

Exchange your driver's license number, insurance policy number, registration information and address with anyone else involved in the collision, or give this information to the police. If you are driving a company vehicle, notify your employer.

Avoid arguing with other participants or discussing who's to blame.

Get the Facts Down

If there are witnesses to the collision, get their names, addresses, and phone numbers if possible, as well as their vehicle license numbers. With the events still fresh in your mind, make a written record of the accident. Try sketching a diagram of the accident. Include this information in your report to the police and your employer or insurance company.

If You Hit a Parked Vehicle

Try to locate the owner of any unattended vehicle involved in the collision. If you can't, leave a note in an obvious but secure place on the vehicle. Give only your name and address, (and the name and address of the owner of your vehicle if it's not your vehicle). Report the collision to the appropriate police at the first opportunity.

Be Prepared

No one expects to be involved in a collision. But being prepared for the unthinkable can save lives and money and protect you or your employer from legal proceedings. If you know these steps, you can respond safely and without confusion if the need arises.

