



Utah Health Center

What To Do When You Crash Your Car

- 1- Remain Calm and check yourself for injury or pain.** If you feel injured or have obvious wounds call 911 or ask a bystander to call for you. If your injury seems serious try to remain still and wait for emergency responders to assist you.
- 2- If you are okay to move, look after the well-being of other passengers.** If you note a need for emergency medical help for any of your passengers make sure 911 or emergency services have been contacted.
- 3- Assess the scene and move to a safe location when possible.** If your vehicle is safely drivable please move it out of the flow of traffic to a safe location off the roadway. If the car is not operable move yourself and any passengers to the side of the road or a nearby sidewalk if safe to do so.
- 4- Don't get angry.** Fighting or arguing at the scene of a collision is not productive and could complicate your recovery. If any other driver is being aggressive or acting inappropriately please ask for intervention or assistance from others in the area. Ask everyone to remain calm.
- 5- Watch for Help to arrive.** Keep hazard lights on and put out road flares if available to maintain safety for other drivers in the area.
- 6- Contact your local police.** 911 will not always connect you with local police. Even for minor crashes the local police should be alerted to help with safety concerns, proper exchange of information and documentation of what happened.
- 7- Contact your Insurer.** Keep the number of your agent with you at all times. Your agent can help advise you at the scene and ensure that you collect all necessary information to help resolve the incident in the coming weeks and months.
- 8- Collect Information from all sources.** Make sure you document the names and numbers for all people and agencies involved. The name and badge numbers of assisting officers, Witness names, numbers and statements, and license plate numbers and descriptions of all vehicles involved.
- 9- Take Pictures.** Take pictures of the scene, your vehicle, other vehicles, injuries, witnesses and more. You should document everything as completely as possible.
- 10- Exchange information with all involved parties.** When police arrive they will facilitate this process with a Driver's Exchange Form. If police are not available make sure you document all information on your own. Take pictures of vehicle registration, insurance information driver's and vehicles for each involved party. Write all information down including driver's license number and plate number of the vehicles as well. Share your information with those who need it.
- 11- Note the time and location of the accident.** Be precise. If you have a phone that allows it you can tag the site for future reference. Always note the nearest cross-streets or mile post to the location of the crash.