

Safety Fact Sheet



These programs offered by the Utah Safety Council offer practical strategies to reduce collision related injuries and fatalities on Utah roadways.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET INTO A CRASH

If you've ever been involved in motor vehicle crash, you know how stressful it can be. Most people are flooded with a mix of emotions and worries. You'll be concerned about everyone's safety and anxious about your vehicle. You might be angry at the other driver. Then there's the fear about what impact the crash will have on your driving record and your insurance. All those things can make it hard to think clearly and respond properly. If there are injuries, the stress can be amplified, but that's when a clear head and quick action are really crucial.

Here are some tips for getting through a crash with a minimum of hassle and headaches.

- Stay calm.
- After a crash, getting help for the injured is always the first priority.
- Regardless of the circumstances, report the crash to the police.
- Record the name, address and phone number of the other driver. Write down the make and license number of all vehicles involved. You'll want to get as much information as you can about the other driver's insurance agent, policy and insurance company.
- Don't forget to collect the names, addresses and phone numbers of passengers and witnesses. Since many cases end up with the parties blaming each other, third-party witnesses can be important. Don't hesitate to approach anyone who may have seen the crash.
- Be careful of what you say. Don't talk about fault; even casual remarks can be used in court.
- Notify your insurance agent immediately. The faster they get information, the faster they can act. Discuss the crash only with your agent and, of course, with the police.
- Examine the damage carefully. Take photos if possible, particularly if the crash occurred on private property, such as a parking lot.
- Without being overly suspicious, observe the other driver's actions. If the other driver later claims to have a serious injury, what you notice could be important.
- Take pictures to document the incident on your cell phone.