

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

Don't discuss the accident with any one except the Police! Utilize your accident envelope and checklist which you carry in your glove compartment. Check and confirm that it is there today! Do not leave the office today unless you have an accident report checklist/form in your vehicle.

1. Immediately after the accident, DO NOT get out of your vehicle until you are sure the accident scene has settled down, and there is no chance of another vehicle hitting you or your vehicle. *(Many injuries and deaths are attributed to people getting out of their vehicle only to be hit by vehicles just encountering the accident scene.)*
2. Quickly look around the accident scene, how many vehicles were involved, how many people in each vehicle, are there witnesses around.
3. Check to see if you are injured.
4. If you have a radio or car phone call the police or radio your office to call the police. In cases of an alleged spill, serious injuries or other complications to the accident it helps if a supervisor from your company can come out to the accident scene.
5. Grab your accident checklist/form, and when it is safe, get out of your vehicle.
6. Immediately check to see if there are ANY fluids leaking from either your vehicle or the other vehicles involved in the accident. *(When a pest control vehicle is involved, any liquid including coolant will be suspect as being a pesticide. - Coolant is a hazardous waste anyway!)*
7. Check to see if any other persons in other vehicles are injured, and offer assistance. Do not administer first aid unless you are qualified to do so.) Don't move an injured person unless they are in immediate danger. *(Such "immediate" hazards are rare.)*
8. Confirm that someone or yourself call the police (and other emergency personnel if necessary). If there has been no response after five (5) minutes call again. Some police jurisdictions refuse to respond to minor "fender benders" when there are no injuries or totaled vehicles. Call the police anyway. If they refuse to respond, ask for the officers FULL name (be sure to confirm that you have the correct spelling of their name) and their badge number. By having the name and badge number of the officer who refused to write a report or to send an officer to the scene you protect yourself in legal situations involving insurance claims and lawsuits.
9. Record as many facts as possible regarding other vehicles involved, drivers, drivers license information, etc. Utilize your accident checklist/form to be sure you have collected all the appropriate information.
10. Get witnesses to write down their names, addresses and phone numbers.
11. Describe and diagram the accident on the accident checklist/form. Include as much detail as possible!
12. If you have a camera, take as many pictures as possible.
13. Never leave the scene of an accident until allowed to do so by the police.

