

Does your teen know what to do in the event of a car crash? Do you?

According to the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) there were 1.7 million teen driver car crashes in year 2000. Of those crashes, they resulted in 7,600 teen deaths and 569,000 teen injuries. In Canada for the same year, teen drivers accounted for some 30,000 injuries and 387 fatalities. Teen driver car crashes remain the single leading cause of permanent injury and death in teens across North America.

Given the number of teens involved in car crashes, it is imperative that they know what to do in the event of a crash. To this end, the I Promise Program – teen safe driving initiative (www.ipromiseprogram.com), requested input from law enforcement agencies and officers to develop a list of just what teens (and all other motorists) should do in the event of a collision.

“Even though we promote teen driver safety, we recognize that teens will still be involved in collisions,” says Gary Direnfeld, executive director. “As such, the objective of this information is to minimize further risk in an already dangerous situation.”

Parents are advised to contact their local law enforcement agency concerning specific laws in their area while the following forms general guidelines of what to do in the event of a crash:

1. After impact and the car has come to a full stop, remain calm and assess the situation. Look at yourself and passengers to determine if there are any injuries. Look out at the other vehicle and roadway to determine if there is a risk to yourself or others.
2. In the event of an injury, render life saving first aid if you are qualified to do so and if it is safe to do so. At the same time, or as soon as possible, you or a bystander should call EMS (Emergency Medical Services), then your local law enforcement agency. In most areas, dialing 911 on a cell phone or any other telephone can place emergency calls. To reduce the risk of shock in serious injuries, you may consider opening the window to allow fresh air.
3. Some jurisdictions require you by law to move your vehicle off the traveled portion of the roadway as part of a “quick clearance policy” while others prefer for the vehicle to be left in place to review as part of the investigation, as long as it is safe to do so. Check with your local law enforcement office on this matter in advance. However, safety considerations and good judgment will remain important in determining whether or not to move the vehicle in any given situation. Safety considerations should prevail.
4. Set up road flares or other emergency signaling device to alert other drivers of the road hazard. Take caution however with road flares in the event of gas spills and leaking fuel tanks. Flares should be set up a safe distance from the vehicle and many law enforcement agencies recommend setting up “red reflective triangles” instead of using flares. Another motorist or bystander can stand at the side of the roadway and caution other motorists to slow down, coming upon the scene.
5. If you are in a high traffic area and it is not safe to leave the vehicle, remain in your seat with your seat belt fastened. If it is safe to leave the vehicle and your vehicle is un-

operational, leave the vehicle and get off the roadway a safe distance from the traveled portion of the roadway.

6. Once the crash scene is stabilized, do not discuss fault with the other driver(s). A discussion of fault with the other driver(s) can lead to arguments, which in itself can pose a danger given the heightened emotions with the situation at hand. It is appropriate at this point to exchange information such as license plate number, insurer, policy number, phone and address. Be sure photo identification matches the identification holder. It is also appropriate at this point to obtain similar information from witnesses (a witness being anyone other than who was in any of the vehicles involved in the crash).
7. Cooperate completely with law enforcement personnel and EMS personnel. They are there to help you. Provide all the information they require and follow their instruction. The law enforcement officer will record facts of the incident, take statements and write citations based upon observed violations of the law. Your insurer or lawyer may use this information to assess fault and liability.
8. Call your parents and inform them of your situation. Tell them if you require any assistance such as medical aid or transportation. Assuming the situation is under control and you are safe, assure them of your safety so that they do not take aggressive action to meet you at the crash scene or hospital. You may need to tell your parents to respond in a safe and calm manner as they will be worried and scared about your well-being.

Many jurisdictions have specific laws with respect to reportable collisions and collisions involving highway property. All drivers are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement agency to learn about the specific laws in their area. Lastly, as the result of some collisions, you may have to take action in a manner not specified, but dictated by the situation. Above all, remain calm; assess the situation and act first with a regard to personal safety and the safety of others. Before heading out consider placing safety items that should be kept in trunk or rear area for emergencies related to crashes, i.e., flares, orange cones, disposable camera, heat blanket, pad and pencil, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, etc.

The I Promise Program (www.ipromiseprogram.com) recommends all parents sign a parent-youth safe driving contract to reduce the risk of car crashes. An ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure.

This survey was conducted by the I Promise Program – a teen safe driving initiative that promotes parents as role models by entering into a mutual safe driving contract with their teen. To provide accountability, a rear window decal is then affixed to the vehicle. The decal display a toll free number and the question, “Am I driving safely?” Calls are received by a call center and responses are sent by letter only back to the family. Youth, parents, community members, police and interested stakeholders in traffic safety have participated in developing this program.

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Police survey question:

With as many as 25% of all teen drivers having a crash in their first year of independent driving, we are concerned that teens (and many parents) do not know what to do in the event of a crash. As such, a crash scene may pose a risk to the persons involved and to other motorists.

We would like to develop a short list of (5-10) items that a driver should do when a crash occurs to manage the situation. (e.g. Should drivers remain with the car, should they be moved to the side, should they wait for police, should they exchange information, should they determine who was at fault, etc.)

Please provide your list of how to manage a crash from the moment of impact.

Police survey replies:

1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine if anyone is injured and render aid if necessary. 2. Call the police and advise them of the crash and of any injuries. 3. Move vehicles out of the traffic lanes, if this can be done safely. 4. Advise involved parties to remain with their vehicles and await the arrival of police. 5. If police are not going to respond, exchange information with all involved parties (name, DOB, license #, vehicle license #, insurance info). 6. Contact your insurance provider.
2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact police. The dispatcher will want to know if an ambulance or fire truck is needed. 2. Drivers and their vehicles should remain at the scene. Investigations will not be conducted otherwise, except in the case of a hit and run. If a report is not necessary, the officer will facilitate the exchange of appropriate and valid information. 3. Move vehicles only if the final resting place is a danger to self or others, and then only to the closest area of safety (side of roadway). 4. Obtain names and phone numbers of witnesses. A witness is anyone NOT in the vehicles involved in the accident (another motorist, pedestrian). 5. Don't discuss details of the accident until the police arrive at the scene. The officer (and witnesses) will determine fault. 6. Carry your driver's license with you. Also, know where the registration and insurance information are kept in any vehicle you drive.
3	<p>Every accident is different depending on the cause, the time of day, the location, traffic etc. Safety is the primary concern at any accident scene.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Determine if there are any injuries (2) Generally speaking leave the vehicles where they are (3) Call Police (report injuries if any) (4) Depending on the crash site if it is extremely hazardous and the drivers can find a safe place

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	<p>to wait for Police they should do so</p> <p>(5)Generally speaking the drivers should stay with their cars</p> <p>(6)Police will require a Drivers License, Ownership and Proof of Insurance from each driver to complete the accident report. Police will also take a detailed statement explaining the accident.</p> <p>(7)Wait for Police to arrive.</p>
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine if there are any injuries/if so immediately call 9-11 or the emergency number in your area to summons aid. Remain and assist the injured in any way possible. 2. When notifying emergency personnel, speak clearly and provide them with your exact location as accurately as possible -use landmarks if necessary. 3. If vehicles are drivable and no one is injured, remove the vehicles from the roadway to an area of safety and await arrival of law enforcement. 4. If accident occurs on a blind curve/grade and vehicle cannot be moved; attempt to warn oncoming traffic of the hazard by using flares or some form of warning device. 5. Have drivers remain at scene until arrival of law enforcement unless immediately medical attention is needed for the driver. 6. Attempt to locate witnesses to event 7.Information can be exchanged between drivers; however do not discuss fault with other drivers.
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remain calm, collect your thoughts, control your breathing. 2. Assess the severity of the crash. Who's injured, who's involved, and call for help (cell phone, neighbor, bystander). Notify law enforcement. 3. If the accident is serious in nature (death or bodily injury) do not move the vehicles unless another hazard exists. 4. If the incident is minor in nature (fender bender) move the vehicles from the roadway (Florida law requires moving the vehicles from the roadway FSS 316.061(2).) 5. If someone is seriously injured, do not remove them from the vehicle unless another hazard exists. Contrary to what is seen on television, a small number of vehicles explode as a result of a traffic crash. A more serious injury could occur by moving someone with a cervical-spinal injury. 6. In Florida if the amount of damage to each vehicle involved is less than \$500 damage and no one is injured, the drivers can exchange information and are not required to report the incident to law enforcement (FSS 316.065(1).) 7. Do not get into a confrontation with the other party involved. Wait for law enforcement personnel to discuss the crash with.
6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact emergency services 2. Remain calm 3. Contact parents 4. Collect your personal information. (State issued driver's license) 5. Collect your vehicle's information. (Vehicle registration and proof of liability insurance) 6. Remain at the scene of the accident. 7. Do not allow any passengers to leave. 8. If you believe you may be injured, remain still. 9. Do not move any vehicles until directed to by police. 10. Complete crash statements thoroughly and accurately.
7	<p>As you would expect, this really depends on the severity of the crash. In situations where there are no injuries and very minor damage, the response might simply be an exchange of information. In situations where there are injuries and or serious damages, the drivers are obligated by law (at least in Florida) to do certain things. I would suggest that you reference the traffic laws of the jurisdiction that you are interested in for specifics.</p>

	<p>For Florida that can be done at "Online Sunshine" - The Florida Legislature www.state.fl.us, and/or the "Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles" www.hsmv.state.fl.us.</p> <p>In any case there are certain things that a person involved in a crash should do. Again, every case is different. In some situations you may have to "Do what you gotta do." In all cases life and injuries should be the first priority.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess and treat injuries; do whatever you can to limit any further injuries. 2. Notify the police, fire department/paramedics as needed. 3. Stabilize the scene. If possible move crash vehicles from roadway, or take measures to avoid secondary crashes. i.e. cones, flares, direct traffic if it can be done safely, etc. 4. When practicable, have your driver's license, registration and insurance information available for the police when they arrive.
8	<p>There are statutory obligations that are imposed on the driver of any vehicle involved in a collision. Common sense must also be used in these situations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A driver involved in a motor vehicle collision must remain at the scene or immediately return to the scene and offer any assistance or personal, vehicle and insurance information to any person who has suffered a loss or damage as a result of a collision. These are legal obligations under subsections 199 and 200 of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act and section 252 of the Criminal Code of Canada. * Assess any dangerous circumstances surrounding the collision. If there are fallen power or hydro lines on or near the vehicle, or electrical current is suspected of running through or surrounding the vehicle(s), stay inside the vehicle until properly trained personnel make the situation safe for everyone involved. * If you can safely exit your vehicle, determine if anyone involved in the collision is injured and provide first aid, if possible. If you can't provide first aid, you must make arrangements for injured persons to receive medical treatment. If anyone is injured as a result of a collision, you must contact police. * Assess the damage to the vehicle(s). If the vehicle(s) is/are drivable, move it/them to the side of the road, if it can be done safely. If in doubt, leave the vehicle(s) at the point of impact until you are directed to move it/them. * If there is apparently over \$1,000 damage to one or both vehicles, you must contact the police. This is a statutory obligation under subsection 199(1) of the Highway Traffic Act. If you're involved in a collision with another vehicle, both drivers may be directed to attend the nearest police station to file a report. If you suspect that one of the drivers may be impaired by alcohol or drugs, there are injuries or the vehicles are not drivable, a police officer must attend the scene. * If you're involved in a collision that results in damage to highway property, a fence or any other property, section 201 of the Highway Traffic Act imposes an obligation on you to contact police and file a report. * If you're involved in a collision and you're waiting outside your vehicle for police to arrive, don't stand near the vehicles. Stand on the sidewalk or off to the side of the road. "Rubberneckers" may not be paying attention to their driving and a secondary collision may result. Standing away from your vehicle will lessen the likelihood that you may be injured as a

	<p>result of this secondary collision.</p> <p>* If there is apparently under \$1,000 damage and there are no injuries, both drivers shall exchange personal, vehicle and insurance information. Clause 200(1)(c) of the Highway Traffic Act mandates drivers to exchange names, addresses, driver's license numbers, province that issued the driver's license, insurance company names and policy numbers, names and addresses of the owner of the vehicle and license plate numbers. If all parties agree, you may make an arrangement to cover damages and costs without having insurance companies involved.</p> <p>* You should not discuss fault or make any admission of liability.</p>
9	<p>Drivers should leave their vehicle in its final position, unless they are creating a traffic hazard to other traffic.</p> <p>Drivers should also record the vehicle license number and vehicle description of the other vehicle(s) involved in a collision. The purpose of this is so in case the other party attempts to flee the scene without giving any information.</p> <p>Also drivers should get the names and contact information for any witnesses.</p> <p>To help with the above two instructions, driver should have a notepad and pencil within their reach in the vehicle at all times.</p> <p>Do not admit fault.</p> <p>Do not discuss the collision with anyone except their insurance company and the police.</p>
10	<p>#1 If there is an injury call 911 and get help immediately.</p> <p>#2 If the crash is property damage only and the combined damage is under \$1000.00, you may exchange driver and insurance information and no police report is needed.</p> <p>#3 If the police are needed to come to the crash (over \$1000.00 combined or personal injury) remain calm and wait for the police. Do not move the vehicles unless they are a road hazard (could cause a crash if not moved).</p> <p>#4 When police arrive, give them your drivers license and insurance information.</p> <p>#5 Explain to the officer what you were doing when the crash occurred. Just give the facts as to what was going on when the crash occurred.</p>
11	<p>1. Call or make sure someone has called 911 for assistance.</p> <p>2. If you are uninjured and your vehicle is drivable, remove it from the travel portion of the roadway. (a. To prevent being a second victim and b. traffic flow)</p> <p>3. Be aware of your surroundings, Do Not step into traffic or while walking around your vehicle to assess damage.</p> <p>4. If you are injured, remain in your vehicle and get the attention of someone outside the vehicle to assist you.</p> <p>If someone is injured and you can help, please assist them if you can.</p> <p>5. Do Not point fingers or blame a driver for a crash. Do Not escalate a confrontation. It is the Investigating Deputies job to determine an at fault driver. Remain calm and in your vehicle if</p>

	possible with your license, registration, and insurance ready.
12	if we're talking about an injury accident , the most important thing is to call 911 so the injured parties can be attended to. The only other advice at an injury accident is to not stand in the roadway, putting your safety in jeopardy. At a non-injury accident, the most important thing is to get the other drivers license and then if possible move your vehicles out of the roadway. If you see witnesses, try to get their license so they won't leave the scene. Call the police and then wait for their arrival. DON'T STAND BETWEEN CARS, AND DON'T STAND IN THE ROADWAY. Safe driving to all.
13	<p><u>Ten Things Teen Driver's Should Remember In The Event They Are Involved In An Accident.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately contact the Police Department or Sheriff's Office; provide your name, the location of the accident, number of persons injured and the number of vehicles involved in the accident. 2. Do not move the vehicles unless there are emergency or exigent circumstances. 3. If possible place flares or emergency markers 100 feet back from the accident site giving ample notice to approaching vehicles. 4. If possible stand clear of the roadway on the sidewalk or shoulder of the roadway, out of travel lanes. 5. If parties are injured DO NOT move the injured unless emergency circumstances are present. 6. Gather your driver's license, registration card and insurance information and have it ready to present to the investigating officer. 7. If witnesses are identified or come forward get their name, address and telephone number and license plate. Ask them to remain at the scene and talk with the investigating officer upon his/her arrival. 8. Carry insurance information inside the vehicle or upon your person. Know the name of your insurance company, agent, policy # and insurance agency telephone number. 9. Never engage in an argument with the other driver or witnesses about who was at fault. 10. Remain calm and try to remember the sequence of events that lead up to the accident.
14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check themselves and others involved to see if anyone is injured, if so summon help immediately. 2. Contact the police if you live in a state where the police still respond to all accidents (I know in some areas, the police only respond to injury or fatality accidents) 3. Carry a disposable camera in your car, and use it to take pictures of the accident from all sides before moving the vehicles. 4. Exchange names, addresses and insurance company information 5. Either have a police officer complete the accident report (if an option) or complete a driver self report of the accident soon afterwards.
15	Much of what you ask is controlled by laws of the respective states. Some are controlled by common sense and safety concerns dictated by the particular circumstances at a given crash scene.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safety first - Depending on the circumstances - Make sure people are safe. I would encourage drivers and passengers to get out of the roadway - stand on sidewalks or on the outside of guard rails and the like so you don't become the victim of a secondary crash. 2. Safety second - Depending on circumstances - If vehicles are posing a safety hazard and are movable, move the vehicles to the side of the road or to a safe location. If not movable, try to provide some warning to oncoming traffic; again, to prevent a secondary crash. 3. Exchanging information is always encouraged. Those involved in the crash, their insurance carriers and in many states, an insurance compliance office, will require certain information. 4. Do not try and determine fault, or debate the cause of a crash with other involved parties. If it is a serious enough accident, law enforcement and insurance personnel will make those determinations. Arguing over fault at a crash scene often can make a bad situation worse. 5. State law will normally dictate for which accidents persons involved in traffic crash will be required to wait for the police. 6. Notify your insurance company as soon as possible of the accident so all parties can settle their various claims and get the autos and injuries addressed as soon as possible.
16	<p>The answers are generic for all crashes but common sense must prevail. There are some basic differences when the crash is on the expressway versus surface streets.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If vehicle condition permits, get the vehicles out of traffic as soon as practical. On expressway, get to right berm or better yet completely off the expressway. On surface streets pull into a parking lot if available. If on the expressway and vehicle is disabled, leave the vehicle and get as far off the roadway as possible only if you can do this safely. If you cannot do this safely, stay in car with seat belt fastened. The worst thing that can be done is to wander around in the roadway. 2. Activate all emergency flashers 3. Determine if there are any injuries and perform whatever first aid you are trained to do. Do not move obviously severely injured unless it is obvious they may be struck again if they are in the roadway. 4. Notify police/fire/ems as necessary. Try to be as specific as possible as to your location. 5. If getting out of traffic is impossible due to vehicle damage, etc. stay in your car with seat belt on. If it appears you are in an unsafe area, drive to a well lighted area where there are people around (quick service market, etc.)and wait for police arrival. Let the other persons involved know of your intentions to do this. 6. Make no statements as to fault in the crash. Let the police determine this at conclusion of their investigation. 7. Exchange information while waiting for police if you can accomplish this safely.
17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call law enforcement immediately. 2. Advise the law enforcement personnel you speak with on the telephone of injuries and request he/she dispatch emergency medical respondents, in addition to a police officer. 3. Do not move the involved vehicles unless instructed to do so by police personnel. 4. Remain at the scene of the crash until police arrive, unless instructed otherwise by police

	<p>personnel.</p> <p>5. Immediately document the license plate number and description of the other vehicle and driver.</p> <p>a. Should the other vehicle or driver involved leave the scene, notify police immediately of the description and direction of travel.</p> <p>6. <u>Request to exchange</u> owner, driver, and insurance information with the other involved party.</p> <p>a. Avoid conflict or altercation with an uncooperative or combative person.</p> <p>7. If witnesses are present, request they remain at the scene until police arrive.</p> <p>8. Call your insurance company while at the scene.</p> <p>a. Some insurance companies will respond to the scene.</p> <p>9. While driving, always have in your possession your drivers license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance.</p>
18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Stop your vehicle. Do not leave the scene. 2) Check all involved persons for injuries and, if necessary, call for emergency medical services. Be very observant of other traffic while you are in the roadway. 3) On minor accidents, move the vehicles out of the roadway if it is safe to do so, to avoid further collisions. 4) Avoid standing in the roadway. 5) Notify the police. 6) If the police are not notified, as in the case with very minor collisions, obtain the name, driver's license number, vehicle information, and the insurance company information (policy number) of the other driver. If possible, get the names of any passengers involved as well as the witness information. Remember, the other driver will require the same information of you. 7) Do not discuss fault or make statements regarding the accident with anyone but the police. 8) When it becomes available, get a copy of the accident report. 9) Contact your insurance agent.
19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop your vehicle. Do not move it unless a law enforcement officer tells you to, or if it is a danger to other drivers. 2. Help anyone who is hurt, but avoid contact with blood. Do not try to move the injured person. Make sure someone calls an ambulance. 3. Call the police. 4. Use reflectors or flashlights to warn approaching traffic. 5. Exchange the following information with other drivers involved in the crash: names and addresses, license plate numbers and vehicle identification numbers, insurance company names and policy numbers. 6. Do not leave the scene until a law enforcement officer says you can.
20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Stay at the scene (2) make sure everyone is o.k. (3) Notify the police (4) move the vehicles to the side of the road or a safe place (5) write down witnesses names and their phone numbers (6) do not accuse the other driver of anything, tell the police officer what happened when he arrives (7) tell the truth to the police
21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the event the collision involves injuries; occupants of the vehicle that are injured should remain in the vehicle until emergency services arrive to evaluate the extent of injuries. The only exception to this rule is if the vehicle has some sort of mechanical problem, i.e. fire, where if the person remains in the vehicle, further injuries might occur.

	<p>2. If any occupant in a vehicle has a cell phone, they should immediately call 911 and report the collision and location of the collision.</p> <p>3. If nobody is injured and it is safe to exit the vehicle, occupants should exit and walk to an area that is out of traffic to await police.</p> <p>4. In the State of California, names may be exchanged for a non injury traffic collision with minor damage. When doing so, the driver's of the vehicle should exchange driver license information, vehicle registered owner information and vehicle license plate, insurance information and any statements made by the other party. This information should be immediately sent to the respective insurance company for processing. In any case, if a problem exists where this information can't be obtained, call the police for assistance.</p> <p>5. Any injury traffic collision in the State of California must be reported to the police and a police report is mandatory.</p>
22	<p>The number one thing drivers should do post collision is to get themselves (body) out of and watch traffic. Don't stand there and look at your wrecked car and get hit by another who is also watching the wreck instead of the road (rubbernecking). The second thing they should do is clear the road is it is a minor collision. Do not try to establish blame yours or theirs. Let law enforcement ask the necessary questions to establish cause and fault.</p>
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ?? Check for injuries in your and other vehicle ?? Make sure police have been called ?? Give nature of injuries ?? If someone is injured, do not move vehicles ?? If no injuries and it is possible, drive vehicles out of roadway ?? Make sure your accident does not cause another one ?? Have your license and insurance card ready for Police Ofc.
24	<p>After a crash, if persons are not injured or have slight injuries, they should move to a place of safety to the side of the road but near the site and wait for police. If there are injured persons, other people involved should provide what first aid that they can for the injuries while they wait for emergency responders. Send someone to call police and ambulance services if there are any injuries.</p> <p>If someone has suspected head, neck or back injuries, they should not be moved from their vehicle until EMS persons arrive, unless there is additional threat to life, such as fire.</p> <p>Vehicles should not be moved until police direct you to do so.</p> <p>If you are not injured, move to a place of safety off the road. Help move other people to a safe place and provide first aid for injuries. Send someone to call police and medical services. Do not move someone with head, neck or back injuries unless there is additional threat to life if they are not moved. Drivers should exchange driver and insurance information.</p>
25	<p>It is not occurring as much now as it has in the past but teenagers, women alone and senior citizens are the chief targets for this type of auto theft.</p> <p>1. REMAIN CALM.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Determine injuries (in all involved vehicles) and their severity, if you are injured do not move until Paramedics arrive. 3. If you have a cell phone, call 9-1-1 and remain calm and answer the questions asked of you. Too much information sometimes slows up the response. Next call you parents. If you are under 17 years of age they need to be there along with the police. 4. If no injuries and vehicles are operable, carefully move the vehicles from the main portion of the roadway (go to the closest shoulder or median). 5. Get out of vehicle and step to a safe distance out of the flow of traffic. 6. If no injuries and vehicles have minor damage only, then exchange information with other drivers and clear the roadway. Many police agencies do not make reports on accidents involving minor damages to vehicles, no private property damages and no injuries to persons. 7. If no accident report is made by a police agency you may submit your report (along with the other drivers) on a BLUE FORM. These forms may be obtained from your local police agency. 8. Contact you insurance agency and inform them of the accident. 9. If you are involved in an accident with very minor damage, you are not injured and you are in a strange area, call 9-1-1 and remain in your vehicle with the doors locked. There are car thieves that will use a minor accident as a disguise to get you to get out of your vehicle and then they will steal it. This usually happens in an isolated area with few or no witnesses. If your vehicle is operable when you move it from the roadway, go to an area of activity, an open convenience store, a business with people visible, etc...
26	<p>The first and foremost of law enforcement concerns are the safety of those motorists involved and the effected motorists passing the accident scene. All precautions should be made by all involved parties to watch for motorists and be careful while stepping onto the roadway from a vehicle or the sidewalk.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Check yourself and others for injuries. Prior to exiting your vehicle, make sure there are no approaching motorists, which will pose a hazard. Once it is safe, exit your vehicle and check on the welfare of those involved. 2) If there are no injuries, and the vehicles are drivable, move the vehicles to a safe location (i.e. Parking lot or shoulder of the road.) Activate your emergency hazard lights to alert approaching motorists of a problem ahead. If an involved party is injured, do not move their vehicle and do not remove them from their position. Immediately call 9-1-1 to summon Police and medical personnel. As always, remember your safety and the safety of others. 3) If a report of the accident is desired, notify the local law enforcement agency. If a report is not desired and there are no injuries, parties may exchange their information. 4) When exchanging information, obtain the person's driver's license number and name, the license plate of their vehicle, including the year, make, model and color, and lastly, obtain their insurance information (policy name and company). 5) Lastly, notify your insurance company you have been involved in an accident. Provide them with the date/time, location and the other involved party's information.
27	<p>It all depends upon the situation. In Massachusetts, there are laws explaining when you need to contact the police for accidents. MOST times you're NOT supposed to leave the scene of one, which is probably typical of most states. (ESPECIALLY IF THERE'S PERSONAL INJURY OR DAMAGE TO SOMEONE ELSE'S PROPERTY) As far as being in one, if you are hurt but it's minor, move to a safe place. Sometimes that's just staying</p>

	<p>in the car, sometimes moving out of the car to the side of the road, it all depends on how hurt you are. If SOMEONE'S NOT sure though what to do, they should always call for help.</p>
28	<p>Thank you for your inquiry from our Department. It is a pleasure to be of help in any way possible to our young drivers in Canada. I apologize for not meeting your Oct 23 deadline, but as I hope you can understand it is a busy place here.</p> <p>In response to your inquiry, there is no single response. Every collision has it's own set of circumstances which will determine the actions to be taken by the drivers involved, so I will have to break this response down into two scenario's; Minor and Serious Collisions.</p> <p>In Alberta the law requires drivers to report collisions when the total property damage value exceeds \$1000.00. Of course if it is under \$1000.00 the driver must still contact the other party or parties to settle the matter.</p> <p>It should also be mentioned that whether it is minor or serious, the safety of the occupants of the vehicles is paramount. If the collision should occur in a place where it may be dangerous to exit the vehicles, then the occupants should stay inside the vehicles with seatbelts on and emergency flashers activated, until emergency personnel arrive. If you can exit the vehicle safely then do so and move off the roadway away from the vehicles. In a minor collision assuming the vehicles are drivable, then the vehicles should be moved to a safe location as soon as it is safe to do so. Do not try to determine who is at fault, this is for the police and/or insurance company's to determine.</p> <p>Minor Collision:</p> <p>Move vehicles off the road to a safe location, after assessing the situation. Leave vehicles in place if Police are going to respond, unless this causes a safety hazard.</p> <p>Exchange Drivers License Information, Vehicle Registration Info, and Insurance info. before leaving.</p> <p>Important points to remember:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ?? Ensure the picture on the driver's license is the person who was driving the other vehicle(s). It will be important for you to be able to say the information you recorded belonged to that person. ?? Ensure the registration matches the License Number, description and Vehicle Identification number belong to the vehicle that person was driving ?? Check the dates on the insurance documents to make sure they are valid, and ensure you record the policy number, Insurance company and the Broker. <p>If there is a discrepancy in the information, call the police to have them attend, do not leave the scene until you have exchanged information, or have made arrangements with the other driver(s) to attend a Police Station. Note the License number and make of the vehicle before you leave the scene.</p> <p>Major Collision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ?? Call or have someone call emergency number for appropriate emergency personnel. (Ambulance, Fire, Police) ?? Ensure all persons are OK, attend to injuries if you can and watch for unsafe circumstances, i.e.: fire, chemicals, and other traffic. ?? Place yourself in a safe location until emergency personnel arrive. ?? Direct emergency personnel to injured (If any) ?? Leave vehicles where they are unless directed otherwise by emergency personnel. ?? Follow directions of attending emergency personnel they are there to help you. ?? If you are injured, stay in your seat with your seatbelt on. Do not try to move or leave

	<p>your vehicle unless there is a danger to you or others by staying there.</p> <p>Obviously there are countless circumstances surrounding collisions. Every person will handle them differently. If there is uncertainty, then have the Police attend, or you attend the nearest Police Office to report the collision directly after the incident.</p> <p>You will be required by law to make a statement as to what happened.</p>
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Upon receiving the above replies, a draft report was prepared and submitted for review by law enforcement agencies and officers. Feedback was sought to correct errors or omissions.

The following is the feedback received to the draft report:

1	<p>Gary, my only comment is concerning #4, setting up road flares. It is important to make sure no flammable liquids such as gasoline are present due to the collision, prior to setting flares. Maybe you will want to add this prior to publicizing these actions.</p>
2	<p>Gary, the media release is very good with one exception. Number three is not within the law. Florida statute requires that vehicles be removed from the roadway if they are operational. I hope this helps.</p>
3	<p>6) Once the crash scene is stabilized, do not discuss fault with the other driver(s). Police will determine fault based upon their investigation.</p> <p>In number 6 above you say that they should not discuss who is at fault with the other drivers. This is good advice. You go on to say that the police will determine who is at fault. This is not true. The police will determine if traffic laws have been violated and take appropriate action, which may include enforcement action. Sometimes both drivers have committed traffic violations. The police don't get involved in assigning fault for several reasons. Frequently there is fault shared between the drivers. The fault could be 50/50, 60/40 and so on. The police don't get involved in that. Insurance companies do. In a serious collision or a reconstruction, the police will identify causation factors that contributed to the collision. These factors could include driver actions, vehicle defects, roadway design or maintenance flaws, etc. All of these contribute to the "fault" in the collision.</p> <p>Thus, it is a bad idea to tell drivers that the police will determine who is at fault in a collision. Insurance companies do that.</p>
4	<p>The one thing you could consider adding is that when seriously injured in an accident, most people die from shock. It is important to have a plan so try and avoid going into shock. Something as simple as rolling the window down and raising your arm out the window can help. It gives the person something to focus on. Feel free to edit any way you like.</p>
5	<p>You might want to include the Sheriff Office... Where you say you might want to contact your local Police in your area. It might read better, to contact your local Law Enforcement agency. Everything in the article reads Police. Thanks</p>
6	<p>In our jurisdiction we make it a point to tell people. The police do not assess fault in accidents, we merely record the facts of the incident, take statements from the parties involved and witnesses, and write citations based upon observed violations of the law. We tell them it is the job of the insurance people and attorneys involved to assess blame (fault).</p>

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7	The police do not determine fault of a accident. We determine what traffic laws were violated. The insurance company determines fault in a accident.
8	Maybe on number 2 you should mention that should you see any signs of injuries, you should activate your EMS by calling 911 in most areas then render first aid if you are qualified to do so.
9	Looks fine, but I would add a warning to paragraph number 4 in reference to placing flares a safe distance away from vehicle that may be leaking flammable fluids.
10	It is important to note that burning road flares should not be used if there is any danger of fire from leaking fuel tanks
11	<p>It looks great and appears to have covered all bases. If you can add something to or re-word suggestion #4 regarding road flares. In some crashes the gas tank is ruptured and/or other flammable substances are nearby. This is a case when road flares would not be appropriate. Maybe something like "Check for flammable liquids before setting up road flares or other emergency....."</p> <p>If appropriate, maybe a sentence or two on safety items that should be kept in trunk or rear area for emergencies related to crashes, i.e., flares, orange cones, disposable camera, heat blanket, etc.</p>