

What should you do if you have a car accident?

If you have a traffic accident, you must:

- **Stop at once(1)**

Stop at the accident scene or as close as possible without creating a dangerous situation. If you don't stop, you are committing a serious traffic crime called "Hit and run"(2). If the accident is on the highway, you have no injury, and it is safe to drive your vehicle, move your vehicle to the shoulder(3) of the highway or to a parking area.

- **Give help**

Give any reasonable(3) help to an injured(4) person. In many cases, an injured person should not be moved at all except by someone who is trained. If a person is killed or unconscious, the driver is required to remain at the scene(5) of the accident until the police arrive.

- **Exchange information**

Give to the other driver, passengers in the vehicle, or any injured(6) pedestrian(7) your:

- Name
- Address
- Driver license number
- Vehicle license plate number and
- Your insurance information

You must provide this information to the other driver(s) unless you think it will be dangerous or impossible to do so.

- **Report the accident to DMV(8)**

You must report the accident to the DMV by filling in a form if:

- Damage(9) to the vehicle you were driving is over \$1,500;
- Damage to any vehicle is over \$1,500 and any vehicle is towed from the scene as a result of damages from this accident;
- Injury or death resulted from this accident; or
- Damages to any one person's property(10) other than a vehicle is over \$1,500.

You must file(11) a report even if your vehicle was the only one in the crash. Before you file an accident report, always make a copy of the report.

- **Also, know that:**

- Some drivers who are in accidents offer to fix the damage and try to get the other driver not to file a report. If you agree, you are breaking the law (if the damage is more than \$1,500).
- If you hit an unoccupied(12) vehicle, try to find the owner. If you cannot find the owner, leave a note with your name and address and a short description of what happened.
- If you damage property other than a motor vehicle, you also must try to find the owner or someone in charge of(13) the property to report the damage.

___ hurt (used for a person)

___ harm to a thing or to a person

___ something that belongs to someone

___ place, location

___ the side of the road where cars don't drive

___ having an accident and leaving without exchanging information

___ the government office responsible for licenses and other things connected to drivers and cars

___ with no one in it

___ responsible for

___ submit, turn in

___ right away

___ that makes sense, practical