

At the Scene

(You might want to print this page and keep it in your glove compartment for easy reference in case of an accident.)

Provide assistance to any injured person. Call 911 and get trained emergency medical personnel to the scene.

Protect yourself and your vehicle from further damage or loss.

Exchange information with the other parties and get the names of any witnesses. Record the license plate number(s) and the number of people in the other vehicle(s)

If required, contact the police. In most states, it is unlawful to leave the scene of an accident without permission. In case of auto theft, or a hit-and-run accident, it is very important that you contact the police within 24 hours.

Cooperate with the authorities.

Do not make any statements at the scene accepting responsibility for the accident. Your insurance company will investigate the accident and weigh the facts to determine what caused the accident.

If safe to do so, take a picture of the accident scene before the vehicles have been moved. This is not necessary but is sometimes helpful. Most people have a camera on their cell phones. Leaving an inexpensive disposable camera in your glove compartment can also be helpful.