

Tips for Handling a Car Wreck

If you're involved in a car wreck, handling the situation correctly right from the start is imperative. When the accident first occurs, keep the following in mind.

Get Clear

If you're in a wreck on a major traffic artery, make sure you stay well clear of the road after you've gotten as much of the wreckage out of the way of oncoming traffic as possible. There are situations where you cannot avoid leaving the wreckage on the road or where someone's injuries will prevent them from being moved. If you can, however, stay far away from the roadway and wait for assistance. Plenty of people get killed right after a car wreck, when they're trying to clear debris or are otherwise too close to the road.

Call Authorities

Call the authorities right away. It's better to risk calling the police and not having needed to than it is to unwittingly commit a crime by leaving the scene of an accident before the authorities had time to investigate. If it's fine for you to leave the scene, the operator will let you know. If there is no emergency, try to use a non-emergency number so that you're not clogging up the 911 lines with something that doesn't require immediate assistance.

Call Your Insurance Company

File a claim right away so that you get started toward getting compensated for the accident. You'll want to let your insurance company know what happened and you should have information on the other driver that you can give them, as well. The insurance company, if they're a good one, will start working on getting your damages covered right away. The other driver's insurance company might call you, as well, so make sure not to say anything that might cause them to deny your claim.

Contact an Attorney

If the driver who hit you was clearly negligent, or if you believe that they were, contact a [Texas car wreck lawyer](#). They can make sure you maximize your chances of getting compensated for the accident. They usually offer a free consultation so that they can determine whether or not you have a good claim. If they believe that you do, they may be willing to take your claim on a contingency basis, which means that you don't have to pay them unless they actually manage to win your claim in court or via a settlement offered by the defendant.