



A DANIEL STARK GUIDE

# 6 Things You Should Do Immediately After an Auto Crash



# Did You Know?

Did you know that over [6 million](#) car crashes are reported annually in the United States? It's a shocking statistic, but what's more alarming is being unprepared if you're in a crash.

If you're driving in Texas, it's crucial to follow the right protocol to ensure everyone's safety, comply with state laws, and initiate the insurance claim process.

However, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and unsure about what steps to take immediately after a crash.

That's why we've created a checklist to guide you through **the essential steps** you must take after a collision.

# 1

## Get To Safety

If you're in an auto collision, **your first priority** should always be to get yourself and your vehicle out of danger.

If there are no injuries and the crash is minor, move your vehicle to a safe location, such as the side of the road, an emergency lane, or a parking lot. This action is not only **required by law**, but it could also prevent further crashes.

Once you've moved your vehicle to a safer spot, make sure to note its final resting position after the collision.

Remember, **your well-being should always take precedence** over your vehicle.

If you're in or near the road after a collision, be sure to turn on your **hazard lights** to alert other drivers. If the crash is serious, try to distance yourself from any hazards, like leaking gas or fire.

When exiting your car, be extra cautious and stay alert, especially if the collision occurred on a busy road or highway.

If you're a motorcyclist involved in a collision, attempt to relocate your bike to a safe location if possible. However, if you suspect that you've sustained injuries, it's best to leave your motorcycle where it is to prevent further harm.

# 2

## Assess Your Injuries

To stay safe, try to limit your movement and rest in a neutral position until help arrives. If you have access to a first aid kit, use it for any minor injuries.

After a crash, it is important to assess yourself for injuries. Even minor crashes require attention.

**Adrenaline can temporarily numb pain, so check yourself for injuries like bruising, swelling, or bleeding.**

Once you have safely moved both yourself and your vehicle to a secure location, check on everyone who was involved in the crash.

Begin with your passengers and ensure that they are okay.

It's also crucial to check on the other driver and provide any needed assistance. If someone needs first aid, offer help or prevent further harm until emergency responders arrive.

Keep in mind that **not all injuries are visible**, so even if someone appears okay, encourage them to seek medical attention.



# 3

## Call For Help

After you have assessed any injuries, contact law enforcement and emergency services immediately. If you are unable to make the call, have someone nearby call on your behalf.

Even if the other driver discourages you from calling emergency assistance, **always dial 911 to ensure your safety and that of others.** Don't assume a crash is too minor to be reported.

When law enforcement arrives, you may be asked to give a statement about what happened, but **it's essential not to admit fault, apologize, or make any kind of admission about the incident** before speaking to an experienced Daniel Stark attorney. Your responses may sound exaggerated or defensive due to adrenaline, so **take a deep breath and remain calm.**



**Before leaving the crash scene, obtain a police report number.** A police officer will provide a report containing information about the drivers, insurance details, injuries sustained, crash location, weather and road conditions, witness statements, and conclusions drawn by the responding officer after investigating the scene of the crash.

Obtaining a copy of the report is crucial for investigating contributing factors and determining fault.

These reports are typically available for pickup from law enforcement within 7 to 10 days of the crash date.

If the department doesn't show up for minor collisions, report the crash and request a copy of the report through the law enforcement office. You can purchase a copy online through the [Texas Department of Transportation](#).

However, keep in mind that not everything important to your case may be documented in the report. It's a good idea to **gather your own evidence and documentation to supplement the police report** and to share your side of the story with a Daniel Stark attorney.

# 4

## Document Evidence

In personal injury cases, strong evidence is essential. It provides clear proof of injuries, property damage, and the other party's negligence. **Gathering evidence significantly increases the likelihood of obtaining the full value of your case.**

Document the scene by taking photos of your vehicle, other vehicles involved, and relevant roadway features such as signs, skid marks, obstructions, and environmental factors that may have contributed to the incident and your injuries. **Don't overlook anything**—capture everything you can see.

Make sure to take photos from different angles, including your own perspective right before the crash. It's also essential to **document any visible injuries you may have sustained**. If you're unable to take pictures yourself, request assistance from a witness, and always ensure that the image file includes the date and time.

**The more pictures, the better.**

Video footage can also strengthen your personal injury case. Seek out footage from nearby businesses, security cameras, dash cams, or eyewitnesses. Video footage has little room for interpretation later, making it a powerful tool in supporting your case.

If someone involved in the crash appears to be intoxicated or impaired by drugs, capture a video of their present state at the scene. However, keep in mind that safety should always come first, so **only record evidence if it's safe to do so**.

If it's not safe to take photos or videos, write down a detailed account of the events while they are still fresh in your memory.

Record your recollection of what happened by creating a voice memo or writing down detailed notes, including how the incident occurred and the injuries you sustained.

# 5

## Exchange Information

Texas law requires that motorists exchange insurance coverage information at the crash site. Always carry your insurance card and be prepared to show it to law enforcement upon request.

Even if the investigating officer collects the contact information of all drivers, you may have to wait days for the crash report to be released before getting the details. **To speed up the process, take the initiative of capturing a picture of the other driver's contact information.**

In case the other person doesn't report the crash, make sure to gather the following information about the other driver:

- Name
- Phone number
- License plate number
- Driver's license number
- Registered vehicle owner information
- Make and model of their vehicle
- Insurance company details
- Policy number and expiration date

**Do not accept cash payments** for injuries or repairs from the other driver.

In addition, **collect contact information from any potential witnesses**, including bystanders, customers or employees of local businesses, drivers and passengers in uninvolved vehicles, and people in nearby homes. Ask them to write down the details of what they observed after the incident occurred or record their statements on a device.

However, never pressure witnesses to provide testimony if they are uncomfortable doing so.

Next, notify your insurance company as soon as you can after the crash. When reporting the incident, inform your claim adjuster whether you were injured.

**Don't speak to the other party's insurance without legal representation.** We will speak on your behalf to ensure your best interests are represented.



# Get Prompt Medical Care

**Many people overlook the importance of seeking medical attention after an incident.** In [43%](#) of car crashes, at least one person sustains an injury, and over 2 million injuries were reported in 2020 alone.

Delayed medical attention can make it easier for insurance adjusters to argue that your injuries were not caused by the incident and that your injuries are not serious.

In addition, prompt medical assistance could be life-saving following a car crash. Injuries can range from minor bruises to severe conditions like paralysis and traumatic brain injuries. Even if you don't feel any pain, **adrenaline can conceal severe injuries** that might lead to chronic pain or long-term disabilities if not treated promptly.

These injuries can include [whiplash](#), bone fractures, internal bleeding, spinal injuries, and more.

A common invisible injury from a collision is a concussion, a traumatic brain injury resulting from head trauma. A collision can cause the brain to shift suddenly, leading to a concussion even if the head was not directly hit.

Seeking medical attention within one to three days after a car wreck, even without any [immediate symptoms](#), is **critical to detect any underlying injuries** and ensure that they're treated early on.

In personal injury cases, [medical records](#) can offer evidence of the damage to your body and your mental state.

Medical records may include medical bill receipts, lab results, discharge instructions, clinical records, diagnostic reports and treatment plans, rehabilitation reports, and prescriptions. After being discharged from a hospital or urgent care, make sure to **keep the documentation** for us to review.

It's also helpful to have a list of all medical professionals who interacted with you during your hospital stay, including doctors, surgeons, nurses, and other hospital staff. Be sure to **keep receipts for any equipment purchased to aid in your recovery**, such as crutches or a wheelchair.

**The sooner you act, the better your chances are of receiving the compensation you deserve and making a full recovery.**



# A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDERS

If you've been involved in a car crash, we will help gather the necessary evidence to build a strong case on your behalf.

We understand how daunting it can be to navigate the aftermath of an auto collision. That's why we are dedicated to protecting our clients from big insurance bullies. We use our experience, resources, and expertise to tell your unique story and help get your life back to normal.

We will investigate your claim, negotiate a settlement, and pursue litigation on your behalf. This can help you focus on your recovery while we take care of the legal details. With our services, you don't have to worry about any upfront costs – **we only get paid when we win your case.**

Don't wait to seek legal assistance if you've been involved in a car crash. The sooner you act, the better your chances are of getting the full value of your case.

Contact us today for a  
**free consultation.**

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# Auto Crash Checklist

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Get to safety

2

Assess injuries

3

Call for help

4

Document evidence

5

Exchange information,  
notify insurance

6

Get prompt  
medical care