

# Car Accident Checklist

By Taylor Peterson

- ☐ Items that Should be Accessible in Your Car
  - ☐ Carry the drivers's license with you on your person, whenever you operate a vehicle.
  - ☐ Have vehicle registration in the car at all times.
  - ☐ Insurance documentation, including your carrier, policy number, and the phone number to call in case of an emergency.
  - ☐ A flashlight.
  - ☐ A disposable camera or camera phone so that you can take photos of damages and the accident scene.
  - ☐ A mobile phone.
  - ☐ First Aid Kit.
  - ☐ Auto accident information form to record notes and information about the accident.
  - ☐ Paper and pencil to exchange contact information with the other driver.
- ☐ At the Accident Scene
  - ☐ Remain calm.
  - ☐ Stop your car.
  - ☐ If you are blocking traffic in a dangerous place, pull off to the side of the road or into a well-lit parking lot.
  - ☐ Turn off your vehicle's engine and either wait for assistance or, if it is safe, step out of your car.
  - ☐ Check to see if you or any passengers with you were injured.
  - ☐ Seek medical assistance if there is anyone injured.
  - ☐ Call the police.
  - ☐ Be courteous and tactful to all parties.
  - ☐ Exchange information with all drivers.
  - ☐ Make sure your thoughts are clear before you make any statements to the police.
  - ☐ Avoid making statements about responsibility to the other driver, witnesses, police or anyone else.
  - ☐ Don't accept fault.
  - ☐ Do not contact your insurance company until you have your thoughts clear and have gathered all the pertinent accident information.

- ☐ Take pictures of everything involved in the car accident.
- ☐ Assist the police with their official report.
- ☐ Get a copy of the police report.
- ☐ After the Accident
  - ☐ Report the accident promptly to your insurance agent.
  - ☐ Do not drive your car if it is unsafe.
  - ☐ Schedule an appointment with your doctor.