

# 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.