



S&W READY MIX CONCRETE COMPANY
DRIVER SAFETY SERIES – MONTHLY TRAINING
AFTER AN ACCIDENT

SEPTEMBER

You're sitting at a stop light, thinking about the day ahead, when all of a sudden, another vehicle rear ends you. Your first thought is "*What do I do now?*"

Every year, there are more than 6.1 million police-reported traffic crashes in the United States. Combine those with the number of incidents that aren't reported to the police and it adds up to a lot of collisions. Although you do your best to drive responsibly and defensively, it's still smart to know what to do just in case you end up in an accident. Crashes can be very scary, but here are some tips if one happens to you:

TAKE SOME DEEP BREATHS TO GET CALM

After a crash, a person may feel a wide range of emotions — shock, guilt, fear, nervousness, or anger — all of which are normal. But take a few deep breaths or count to 10 to calm down. The calmer you are, the better prepared you will be to handle the situation. This is the time to take stock of the accident and try to make a judgment about how serious it was.

KEEP YOURSELF AND OTHERS SAFE

If you can't get out of your vehicle — or it's not safe to try — keep your seat belt fastened, turn on your hazard lights, then call 911 if possible and wait for help to arrive. If you can drive your vehicle and are in an unsafe spot or are blocking traffic, find a safe and legal place to park it (like the shoulder of a highway or a parking lot). If it's safe to get out and move around your car, set up orange cones, warning triangles, or emergency flares around the accident site if possible.

REPORTING THE ACCIDENT

Check on everyone involved in the crash to see if they have any injuries. This includes making sure you don't have any serious injuries. Be extremely cautious — not all injuries can be seen. If you or anyone involved in the accident isn't feeling 100%, you should call 911. Be ready to give the dispatcher the following information:

1. **Who?** The dispatcher will ask for your name and phone numbers in case the authorities need to get more information from you later.
2. **What?** Tell the dispatcher as much as you can about the emergency — for instance, whether there is a fire, traffic hazard, medical emergency, etc.
3. **Where?** Let the dispatcher know exactly where the emergency is taking place. Give the city, road name, road number, mile markings, direction of travel, traffic signs, and anything else you can think of to help them know how to find you.

REPORTING THE ACCIDENT

Make sure you stay on the line until the dispatcher says it's OK to hang up.

Sometimes, you can get the police to report to the scene of the accident even if there are no injuries, especially if you tell them you need someone to mediate — in other words, to help you figure out what happened and who's at fault.

ALWAYS NOTIFY YOUR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR AND/OR THE SAFETY DEPT

TAKE DOWN DRIVER INFORMATION

If you are feeling up to it, especially if the police are not involved, obtain the other driver's information such as:

1. Driver's license number
2. Name, address & phone number
3. Insurance company (insurance policy number)
4. License plate number
5. And, if the driver doesn't own the car involved, be sure to get owner's info as well.

TAKE NOTES ON THE ACCIDENT

If the car accident is minor and you feel that you can describe it, try to do so. Detailed notes and photos of the scene may help the court and insurance agencies decide who is responsible for the accident. Get a good description of the cars involved — year, make, model, and color. If your phone has a camera, use that or another camera to take photos of the accident scene — including the cars and any damage, the roads, any traffic signs, and the direction each car was coming from.

Even if you think the accident was your fault, it may not be. So NEVER admit fault or accept blame at the scene.