

Steps to take after a car accident in Ontario

1. Stop the car, secure your safety

If you're in a car accident in Ontario and don't stop the car, you could face criminal prosecution charges. Turn on your four-way lights (hazard lights, four-way flashers) and set up road flares if you have them. For safety, stay in your car.

2. Call the police

Regardless of who is at fault, or any damage done, the faster emergency crews can respond, the better chance of survival for all. If you're the one who is suffering, you'd want the help, too. Practice your empathy and do the world a favor.

The 9-1-1 operator will tell you if police are required on the scene.

A. The following is a rough guideline for

when police should be present:

- **If there are injuries;**
 - **Should the damage to any car from the accident exceed \$2,000;**
 - **If you suspect someone is intoxicated, either by drugs or alcohol.**
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B. For minor accidents, call the collision reporting centre

If the total damage in the car accident is less than \$2,000, no one is injured, and there are no signs of intoxication or other illegal activity, it's minor. You can contact an Ontario collision reporting centre at 416-745-3301.

3. Take photos

When safe to do so, get out of your car and start taking pictures on your cell phone. Ideally, you haven't moved your car. The photos and descriptions from all involved drivers will help determine fault for the insurance companies. Remember, Ontario uses the no-fault insurance system. So, you'll only deal with your insurer regarding the accident.

- **Record details of the accident. How, when and where it happened. Include time, date, location, speed of your vehicle, weather and road conditions. Draw a sketch or take a picture of the accident scene indicating the position and direction of the vehicles and cross streets.**
- **Exchange information with the other involved parties. Name, Driver's Licence number, addresses, phone numbers, insurance and vehicle particulars.**
- **If there are any independent witnesses, obtain their name and phone number.**
- **If the Police come to the scene, answer questions honestly, but do not make comments about the accident, or admit fault, or ascribe blame to other driver(s). In Ontario, your insurance company will determine fault based on "Fault Determination Rules" regulated by the Provincial Government.**

4. Move your car

When it's safe, and if you can, move your vehicle to the side of the road, away from traffic. If you can't drive your car, **ensure the hazard lights are on**, and your road flares are set up if you have them. You can even pop your hood.

These are all signs that there's been an accident to passing drivers. Those drivers, due to the "rubbernecking" will slow down to get a closer look. Unless you can walk away to a nearby sidewalk, stay in your car to keep warm. If it's wintertime, hopefully, **you have a roadside emergency kit with a blanket in it**. Don't fret, emergency crews are on the way.