



MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT AND BREAKDOWN

Potential Hazards

1. Soft tissue injuries
2. broken bones
3. death
4. cuts/lacerations

Personal Protective Equipment Required

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| Eyewear | CSA Boots | Skin protection
(clothing) |
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PROCEDURES

No one wants to be in a car accident, and it may not be your fault, but the more you drive or ride the higher your chances of being involved becomes.

DO'S:

1. Stop your vehicle;
2. Provide information to any other involved persons, including your name, address, driver's licence number, ownership and insurance information;
3. Offer assistance, where needed;
4. Report the accident to the police, if required by law (where the accident involves any complaint of personal injury, death or damage to property in excess of \$1,000.00);

If you are in a motor vehicle accident, there are things that you should do, to protect yourself:

1. Never admit liability or say, "it was my fault" or "sorry" (It sounds harsh, but you **MUST** protect yourself);
2. If your vehicle has been damaged, it will be photographed at a CRC, however you should photograph the damages to your vehicle yourself. It's not a bad idea to keep a disposable camera in the glove compartment of your car to take photographs of the cars and the scene if you should ever be in an accident;
3. If you are injured at all, even if it seems minor, and particularly if you feel pain in the neck, back, shoulders or have any period of unconsciousness or altered consciousness, you should attend an emergency room, walk in clinic or your family doctor as soon as possible after the accident. Remember, sometimes it takes 1 week to 10 days before the real pain sets in because your body goes into shock, so **NEVER** tell anyone you feel fine. Be guarded and wait to see what develops;
4. If an ambulance is called to the accident scene and the ambulance attendants offer to take you to the hospital by ambulance, you should go with them. They are the experts at that time, and if they really didn't think there was a risk of some serious injury, they wouldn't make the offer.
5. See a **LAWYER** as soon as possible after the accident, so all of your rights are explained. Remember to find a lawyer who is an expert in car accidents, as it is a speciality these days, and frankly the fellow that did your will really won't know how to represent you properly.

DO NOT:

1. **DON'T** argue with the other driver over whose fault it is. This can often escalate into violence and end up with somebody getting hurt and somebody getting charged with assault or threatening;
2. **DON'T** offer or accept an offer to pay for the damages to the other vehicle. You have insurance, so let the insurance company do its job;
3. **DON'T** have the vehicle towed to the collision repair shop recommended by the tow truck driver. The tow truck driver may be paid a bounty by the repair shop for bringing in your damaged vehicle. Have the tow truck driver take your car to the location of your choice, or



to a dealer. Your insurance company will pay the same for the repairs no matter where it is taken, so you may as well have the repairs done at some place you trust;

4. DON'T try to convince the police officer not to give you that ticket. By the time the officer has her/his ticket book out and is writing the ticket, it's too late. Just accept the ticket and seek proper legal advice on whether you have a good defence to the charge.

GENERAL SAFE WORK PRACTICES:

1. If a vehicle breaks down, operators must get the vehicle off and away from the travelled portion of the road if possible (this particularly applies to emergency vehicle routes on the project site). If they can't, then they must:
 - a) activate vehicle emergency flashers
 - b) if visibility is poor because of fog, rain, hill, curve, dusk, etc., set out flares or flashers supplied with the vehicle
 - c) set flares or flashers 32 m (100 ft) behind and 32 m (100 ft) in front of the vehicle. (Do not set out flares if you are well off the road.)
2. Immediately report all Company vehicles breakdowns to head office.
3. Report accidents involving Company vehicles as described in the Safety Program. Give all the details possible, such as width of roads, length of skids, presence of traffic signs, vision obstructions, names and addresses of persons involved and witnesses. In case of an accident the operator must:
 - a) pull off the road, if possible, to avoid obstructing traffic
 - b) place warning reflectors on the road as necessary
 - c) render first aid to any person who may be injured
 - d) report the accident to his supervisor as soon as possible
 - e) refrain from entering into any argument or dispute with the driver of the other vehicle, pedestrians or bystanders
 - f) make no admission of liability or offer any settlement of claim
 - g) record license plate numbers and driver's license numbers of any other involved persons (including witnesses)
 - h) make arrangements with your supervisor to report the accident to the necessary authorities