



TODAY'S SAFETY TALK – TRAINING SESSIONS TO PREVENT INJURIES AND INCIDENTS

TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY

PROCEDURES AFTER AN AUTO ACCIDENT

Hazards

Although the number of traffic accidents can be reduced with careful and attentive driving, accidents can and will still occur. According to the Nebraska Department of Transportation, in Nebraska during 2019, there were 36,706 traffic crashes with 248 fatalities and 17,198 injuries.

With this in mind, it is important to briefly discuss what to do if you are involved in an auto accident. So please listen carefully, your health and safety are important to us; we want you to be prepared.

First Steps

The first step after an accident is if possible, to move the vehicle out of traffic to a safe location and turn off the engine. If you can leave the vehicles where they came to rest until law enforcement arrives this will allow them to perform a more detailed investigation. Do not leave the scene of the accident! Then ensure that you and others receive necessary medical attention. This will likely involve calling 911 for an ambulance or other emergency response.

Notify law enforcement so that they can investigate the crash and file a report. Failing to notify law enforcement can result in a he said/she said situation with no independent opinion as to fault or cause.

Exchanging Information

After an auto accident, drivers must exchange contact and insurance information. When exchanging details, *do not admit fault*, as additional information may prove otherwise. Avoid making any statements that could be misunderstood, misinterpreted, or used against you.

The key information to gather is:

- Name, address, and contact details
- Driver's license number(s)
- License plate number(s)
- Auto insurance information

Whenever possible, it is recommended to get the contact information from nearby witnesses and to photograph the scene of the accident, including damage and conditions. [*Instructor Note:* Make note of any policies regarding use of entity-provided mobile phones or devices for taking pictures.] Remember to note the date, time, conditions, and verbal statements made by the other parties involved.

Do not rely on law enforcement to gather this information for you, but do not hinder first responders to gather this information. Obtaining medical attention and the safety of the accident scene should take precedent. [*Instructor Note:* Discuss the organization's policy about responding to the press.]

If you hit an unoccupied vehicle, you must attempt to locate the owner and follow the procedures we just discussed. If unsuccessful, you may leave a note indicating the following:

- Your name and contact information
- Brief description of the accident

TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY SIGN-IN SHEET

COUNTY/AGENCY: _____

DATE OF TRAINING: _____ PRESENTER: _____

TOPIC(S): _____

Print Name

Signature

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