

BE PREPARED

Keep the following items in your car:

-  Virginia vehicle registration
-  Auto insurance card
-  Emergency contacts (spouse, family members and/or friends)
-  Flashlight
-  Jumper cables
-  Lug wrench, tire jack and spare tire
-  Flare or warning triangles
-  First-aid kit
-  Bottle of water
-  Coat and/or blanket
-  Small shovel (during winter travel)
-  Pen and notebook
-  Small camera (or spare cell phone)

GET LEGAL HELP

- Find a lawyer you feel you can trust to handle your case.
- Schedule a consultation.
- Feel free to ask questions about your rights, your legal options and how the lawyer will handle your case.

AT THE ACCIDENT SCENE

Stay calm and follow as many of these steps as possible at the accident scene:

-  Check for injuries to you, your passengers and those in other vehicles.
-  Stay there, ask others involved to stay, too, and put out any flares or warning triangles.
-  Call 911 so police and, if necessary, an ambulance can get to the scene quickly.
-  Get witness information, including names and phone numbers, before they leave.
-  Take photos of the cars involved and any debris, skid marks, street signs and traffic controls in the surrounding area.
-  Exchange basic information with others involved in the crash, including names, driver's license numbers and insurance information.
-  Speak with police about the crash while sticking to the facts, refraining from assigning blame and making sure to get the officer's name and badge number.
-  Move your car, calling a tow truck company if needed.



AFTER THE ACCIDENT

In the days following an accident, you should make sure to do the following:

-  See a doctor to get examined for injuries and to start a course of treatment as soon as possible.
-  Write down what happened before your ability to memory of the details of the accident gets fuzzy.
-  Get a copy of your crash report by contacting the law enforcement agency that responded to your crash or requesting a copy from Virginia DMV. The cost is \$8. Fax your request to (804) 367-0390 or write to:

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles,
Customer Records Work Center,
Room 514, P.O. Box 27412,
Richmond, VA 23269.
-  Call your insurance company, as your policy likely requires, and provide basic information (do not give a recorded statement).
-  Do not talk with other insurance companies and, in particular, do not give a recorded statement or accept a settlement offer until you have spoke with a lawyer first.
-  Store everything in a folder, including all of your medical bills, car repair invoices, insurance company letters and other receipts from accident-related expenses.
-  Stay away from social media, including Facebook and Twitter, until your case has been resolved (insurance companies can use what you say against you).