Collisions

COMMON CAUSES OF CRASHES

Most crashes in Texas are caused by distracted driving, speeding, driving fatigued, driving impaired by alcohol or other drugs, following too closely, and running red lights.

What's the best way to avoid a collision?

- Slow down. Adapt to road and weather conditions.
- Drive friendly! Yield to other drivers and be courteous.
- Maintain a safe following distance.
- Look both ways before entering an intersection.
- Signal every turn and lane change.
- Stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Put away electronic devices and don't use them.
- Do not drive after taking any medication that impairs you.

What to do After a Crash

First, check for injuries. If people are hurt, tend to them. Otherwise, move your car out of the roadway to a safer place. Exchange contact information, VINs, license plate numbers, insurance information, and driver's license numbers. Note the location of the crash and get names and contact information from all witnesses. If the vehicles cannot be moved, protect the scene by setting up flares or raising your vehicle hood.



When to Call Police

Always call police when:

- an injury or fatality occurs
- the vehicle cannot be moved
- you suspect one of the drivers is impaired
- one of the drivers has no insurance
- one of the drivers leaves the scene

When to File a Crash Report

If an officer is not investigating the crash, you must file a report with the Deptartment of Public Safety within 10 days if there are injuries or fatalities; you suspect property damage exceeds $1,000; or you suspect a driver is intoxicated, unlicensed, has no insurance, or attempts to leave the scene. **Failure to file a report subjects you to a $500 fine.**

