

## COMMON CAUSES OF CRASHES

Most crashes in Texas are caused by speeding, failure to yield, driving under the influence of alcohol, following too closely and running red lights and stop signs. So what's the best way to avoid a collision?

- Slow down and drive to conditions.
- Drive friendly—yield to other drivers and be courteous.
- Maintain a safe following distance.
- Look both ways before you enter an intersection.
- Signal every turn and lane change.
- Stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Don't drive if you've been drinking.

## 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 where you can exchange names, addresses, phone numbers, vehicle identification numbers, vehicle license plate numbers, insurance information and driver's license information. Note the location of the crash and get the names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses. If the vehicles cannot be moved, protect the scene by setting up flares or raising your hood.





## When to Call Police

Always call the police when:

- an injury or fatality is involved
- the vehicles cannot be moved
- you suspect one of the drivers is intoxicated
- 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 Department of Public Safety within ten days if there are injuries or a fatality, you suspect property damage exceeds \$1,000 or you suspect a driver is intoxicated, unlicensed, has no insurance or attempts to leave the scene. If you don't file a crash report, you're subject to up to a \$500 fine, plus court costs.

### HERE'S THE LAW



If you are in a collision and no one is hurt, it is not necessary to wait for the police before moving your vehicle. If you can drive the vehicle, the law requires you to move it out of the flow of traffic.

If there is damage to the vehicle, stop and exchange information. If someone is hurt, render aid and notify the police or sheriff. If you hit an unattended vehicle, find the driver or write your name and address on a note that explains what happened. You also must include the owner's name and address if the vehicle you are driving doesn't belong to you.

