

CARRENTALS.CO.UK DRIVING TIPS SERIES - No. 5 The scene of an Accident

You may not want to think about the worst when driving, but how many of us actually know what to do if we are involved in an accident? Hopefully we'll never need to find out but just in case the worst does happen, car hire price comparison site Carrentals.co.uk offers some tips on what to do after an accident:

- **Check for Injuries** - After an accident your first priority should be to check yourself, any passengers and any other drivers for signs of injury – your health is much more important than any damage to vehicles.
- **Call for Help** – If anyone is injured check the ABC of first aid - airway, breathing, and circulation. Make sure someone calls for an ambulance and keep any casualties warm and immobilised.
- **Report the Accident** – No matter how minor you may think the accident is, always report it to the police straight away so that you have an official record of the incident.
- **Move Cars** - Drivers involved in minor accidents with no serious injuries should move cars to the side of the road and out of the way of oncoming traffic. If they cannot be moved, drivers and passengers should remain in the cars with seatbelts fastened until help arrives. Turn on your hazard warning lights and put out cones or warning triangles if possible.
- **Keep Records** - Make a note of any specific damage to all cars involved in an accident, along with the names, addresses and license numbers of everyone involved. It is also useful to take down contact details of any witnesses who could help if there is any disagreement concerning blame.
- **Don't Apologise** – try not to apologise or admit blame, even if you think it was your fault and, likewise, don't try to make the other person admit they were wrong. It is up to the police and the insurance companies to decide who was at fault.

- **Hitting an Animal** - If your car hits a dog or a farm animal you are required by law to report the incident to the police. If you hit a cat or wild animal, there is no obligation to report it, but you must ensure that the animal is not injured and suffering.
- **Insurance Claim** - Before calling your insurance company, think carefully about whether or not you want to file a claim. If the cost of your repairs is just a little more than your excess, and you were at fault in the accident, it may be more economical to pay for your own repairs, rather than lose your no claims discount.

Disclaimer - These tips are not exhaustive and are for information only. Carrentals.co.uk can not be held responsible for any losses incurred as a result of acting on any information contained herein.