

# Collisions



OKLAHOMA  
ROAD  
TIPS

## COMMON CAUSES OF CRASHES

**Crashes usually aren't accidents.** Distracted driving, speeding, driving fatigued, driving impaired by alcohol or other drugs, following too closely, and running red lights are all factors that lead to crashes.

### What are some ways 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 while driving.
- Do not drive after taking any medication or other substance that may cause impairment.

## What to do After a Crash

Stop immediately. Find out if anyone's been hurt. Call 911 and provide your exact location—or have someone else call 911 as soon as possible.

Exchange information with the drivers of all other vehicles.

For crashes that do not involve injury or death and which obstruct the flow of traffic, make reasonable effort to move vehicles from the roadway.

Remain calm!



## When to Call Police

In Oklahoma, law requires you to contact the police before you can leave the scene of a crash involving injury, serious property damage, or death.

However—the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office recommends **ALWAYS** calling police, regardless of the severity of the crash.

## When to File a Crash Report

If there is personal injury or death, if the damage to any vehicle or property is more than \$300, and if all parties have not reached a settlement within six months, you must file an Oklahoma Motor Vehicle Collision Report with the Department of Public Safety.

## HERE'S THE LAW

If you are in a collision and no one is hurt, you need not wait for police to arrive to move your vehicle. Oklahoma statute §47-11-1001(B) requires that the vehicle owner or operator make every reasonable effort to remove the vehicle from the roadway—but this **does not apply** to collisions resulting in the injury or death of any person.

If you hit an unattended vehicle, leave a note with your contact information and explain what happened. Include the owner's contact information if the vehicle you are driving is not yours.

  
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