

A car, truck or bus accident in Southern California is nothing to take lightly. While some may think they can walk away from an accident quickly it may very well be the case that internal injuries cause medical concerns in the future. For this reason, it is very important to seek proper medical treatment and healthcare immediately after a vehicular accident. This is just one of many steps that must be taken immediately after a vehicular accident.

We have comprised a list of the 10 things you should do if you happen to be involved in a car accident in Los Angeles or any part of Southern California.

1. **Move Vehicle to Safe Location.** If possible, move your vehicle to a safe area in which oncoming or meeting traffic is at least 10 to 15 feet away from your vehicle. If your vehicle is disabled, do not try to exit the vehicle while on an interstate or highway. Stay in your vehicle and leave your seat belt on.
2. **Police Report.** Call the police and report the incident. **Do not**, under any circumstances, leave the scene of the accident until the police have completed an accident collision report. Even if no one has suffered a major injury, it is still necessary to receive an accident collision report. Some victims of a vehicular accident fail to get an accident collision report if the other party admits fault. Do not leave the scene without this report from a police officer. It may be the case that the other party creates a completely different story when questioned by an insurance company.
3. **Witnesses.** If there were any witnesses, ask them to wait and provide a statement to the police. A witness statement is only admissible if it is given to the police officers that take the police report at the time of the car accident. Witnesses cannot leave their contact information for a follow up from an insurance company
4. **Photographs.** If possible, take photographs of the accident scene including the location of the accident and any injuries you or the occupants of your vehicle may have suffered. If it is not possible to take photographs due to the location of the accident or the severity of your injuries, contact someone that can take pictures of the vehicle, the scene of the accident and the extent of your injuries as soon after the accident as possible.
5. **Seek Medical Attention Immediately.** If you are hurt, or injured, in any manner you must receive immediate treatment for your injuries. If you cannot make arrangements to see a medical doctor, the staff at the SoCal Injury Lawyers can refer you to a doctor or medical professional that will work on a lien basis. This means you will not have to pay for the treatment or visit to the hospital until your settlement is determined. Recently, insurance companies state that a lack of treatment in the first week after a car accident is a sign that you are not hurt or injured due to the result of the accident, even if you are in a serious car accident. **Always** seek medical attention immediately after the collision.
6. **Never Admit Fault.** Do not make any statements admitting fault or liability for the accident to any of the parties involved; this includes any occupants/passengers in your vehicle who may seek legal action.
7. **Exchange Insurance Information.** If possible, obtain the contact and insurance information for all other drivers involved in the accident. You should collect, in writing, the name, address, telephone number, insurance company, the policy number, license plate number, VIN number, and the driver's license number of all other involved parties. The VIN number is located on the front windshield or the driver's side door panel of all vehicles in the state of California. Read the insurance policy card and make sure it is a valid policy that is current and not expired. If you have suffered major injuries that do not

allow you to collect this information the police officer at the scene can make the information available to all parties involved. It is important that you **do not** risk your safety to get this information.

8. **Do Not Speak to Insurance Companies.** Immediately after your accident, do not meet with a representative of an insurance company. Insurance companies have their bottom line in mind and they have been known to approach victims at their homes, work or even the hospital to offer a quick cash settlement. Do not accept any cash offers or sign a settlement form from an insurance claims adjuster without consulting one of our experienced personal injury lawyers at the SoCal Injury Lawyers.
9. **Get Legal Help.** Contact the SoCal Injury Lawyers immediately at (800) 950-7755. Do not take the insurance company's "friendliness" as an invitation to quickly resolve your claim. Insurance companies often take advantage of an unrepresented or underrepresented party to obtain incriminating statements in which they may blame you for the accident or devalue your claim. The job of the insurance company is to limit your settlement.
10. **Never Discuss The Accident With Anyone Other Than Your Attorney.** Once you have contacted us at the SoCal Injury Lawyers, do not discuss your claim with an insurance company for any reason. Please redirect any and all calls from the insurance company to us at (800) 950-7755.