

ATTENTION

This brochure is formatted for 8.5x14
paper.

Do not print this page, start printing at
page 2.

How Much Insurance?

You must be financially responsible for your actions whenever you drive and for all motor vehicles you own. Most drivers choose to have an automobile liability insurance policy as proof of financial responsibility. If you have a collision not covered by your insurance, your license will be suspended. If the driver involved in the collision is not identified, the owner of the motor vehicle involved will have his or her driver license suspended.

The minimum amount your insurance must cover is:

- \$15,000 for a single death or injury.
- \$30,000 for death or injury to more than one person.
- \$5,000 for property damage caused by one collision.

Reporting a Collision to the DMV

When you have a collision, report it to the DMV using the SR 1 form. You or your insurance agent, broker, or legal representative must complete the SR 1 form and send it to the DMV within 10 days if someone is injured (no matter how minor the injury) or killed or property damage is over \$750. The SR 1 form is required in addition to any other report made to the police, CHP, or your insurance company.

The SR 1 form is available at DMV field offices, CHP offices, or online at www.dmv.ca.gov. The SR 1 form is required whether you caused the collision or not, and even if the collision occurred on private property.

Your driving privilege will be suspended if you do not complete an SR 1 form or if you did not have the proper insurance coverage at the time of the vehicle collision.

Every vehicle collision reported to the DMV by **law enforcement** will show on your driving record unless the reporting officer says another person was at fault. Unless there is a

corresponding law enforcement report on file that indicates another person was at fault, every vehicle collision reported by you or **another party** in the collision will also show on your driver record if:

- Any vehicle or property involved has over \$750 in damage, or
- Anyone is injured or dies.

It does not matter who caused the vehicle collision. The law says DMV must keep this record.

Vehicle Collision Recap

The following information will help you complete the SR 1 form (keep it in your glove box).

Do not use this pamphlet in place of filing the SR 1 form.

- Your insurance company name and policy number.
- Date and time of the accident.
- Location of the accident.

NOTE: You must give your current address and show the following documents to any peace officer and person(s) involved in the vehicle collision:

- Your driver license.
- Your vehicle registration card.
- Evidence of financial responsibility which includes your insurance company name and policy number.

Other Party's (Driver's) Information:

- Driver's date of birth.
- Driver license number and state.
- Driver's name and address.
- Vehicle license plate number and state.
- Driver's insurance company name.
- Policy number and expiration date.
- Policy holder's name and address.
- Vehicle owner's name and address.
- Injuries or property damage.

Save Time. Go Online.
www.DMV.ca.gov
DRIVING CHANGE

Go online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.dmv.ca.gov to:

- Renew your vehicle registration.
- Renew your driver license.
- Calculate registration fees.
- Verify & update vehicle registration insurance suspension information.
- Take a sample driver license test.
- Order special license plates.
- Get forms, brochures, and handbooks.
- Find answers to your DMV questions.
- Make appointments (except commercial driving test*).

Call 1-800-777-0133 for automated service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to:

- Make an appointment (except commercial driving test*).
- Renew your vehicle registration or driver license (see your renewal notice for the Renewal ID Number-RIN).
- Get forms and publications.
- Listen to general information.
- Verify & update vehicle registration insurance suspension information.

**To make a commercial driving test appointment or speak with a technician, call 1-800-777-0133 during our normal business hours:*

- 8-5 Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Friday.
- 9-5 on Wednesdays.

For hearing impaired service call
TTY 1-800-368-4327.

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16

Vehicle Collisions!

Fast Facts

What To Do?



www.dmv.ca.gov

Have You Been Involved in a Vehicle Collision?

Vehicle collisions can be traumatic. So much is happening, and you may not know what you need to do. Keep this pamphlet in your vehicle just in case you find yourself in a vehicle collision.

Were You Wearing Seat Belts?

Most drivers, no matter how carefully they drive, will be involved in at least one vehicle collision during their lifetime. Your chances of being injured or killed in a vehicle collision are greater than you might think. One person in three will be injured or killed. To increase your chances of surviving a collision, use your seat belts every time you are in a moving vehicle. Be sure you and your passengers wear both your lap and shoulder belt if the vehicle is equipped with both, even if the vehicle is equipped with air bags. Wear your seat belts every time you drive. It is the law!

Children eight years of age and older, but under 16 years of age, must be properly secured with an appropriate safety belt. Children under eight years of age, who are less than 4 feet 9 inches tall, must be properly secured in a child passenger restraint system that meets federal safety standards. However, children under eight years of age, who are 4 feet 9 inches tall or taller, may be secured with an appropriate safety belt.

Here are some additional tips for using a child passenger restraint system:

- The back seat is the safest place in the car for children 12 years old or younger.
- Children who weigh up to 20 lbs. and up to age one must be secured in a child passenger restraint system secured to the back seat facing the rear of the car. Children should not be placed facing forward or backward in the front passenger seat if the vehicle is equipped with an air bag. Your local law enforcement agencies, fire departments, or a child passenger

safety (CPS) technician can check for proper installation of your child passenger restraint system. To get help from one of your local CPS programs, use the Child Car Seat Inspection Station Locator link: www.nhtsa.gov/cps/cpsfitting/index.cfm.

Common Causes of Vehicle Collisions

Some of the common causes of vehicle collisions are:

- Unsafe speed
- Driver distractions
- Driving on the wrong side of the road
- Improper turns
- Violation of the right-of-way rules
- Violation of stop signals and signs
- Cellular telephone use

Choosing a Traffic Lane

When news stations report vehicle collisions, they refer to numbered traffic lanes. The left lane is the “Number 1 Lane.” The lane to the right of the Number 1 Lane is the Number 2 Lane, then the Number 3 Lane, etc.

If you are made aware of a vehicle collision, avoid driving near the collision or take another route, if possible. If you must drive near a collision scene, do not slow down or stop to look—you could cause another collision. Drive carefully and watch for people in the road. Always obey an order from a law enforcement officer or firefighter directing traffic at a vehicle collision scene even if you must ignore normal traffic laws or signs to do so.

When You See a Vehicle Collision

- If you are the first person at a vehicle collision scene, pull completely off the road, away from the collision. Emergency personnel must be able to see the collision and stop next to it for easy access to injured persons.

- Check to see if anyone is injured. Search the area for victims who may have been thrown from a vehicle. They may be hidden in grass or bushes.
- Call 9-1-1. If another person stops to help, ask that person to call 9-1-1.
 - The person calling 9-1-1 must be ready to answer questions and provide information, such as the location of the emergency (cross streets, freeway on/off ramp information) and how many people need help (is anyone bleeding, unconscious, or without a pulse).
 - Don’t hang up! Let the emergency dispatcher hang up first.
- If possible, use flares or emergency triangles. If there is a gasoline leak or fumes, do not use the flares and don’t smoke!
- Help anyone who is not already walking and talking. Do not move an injured person unless he or she is in a burning vehicle or in other danger. Moving someone incorrectly often makes an injury worse.
- Move the vehicle(s) involved out of the traffic lane if it is not disabled. Turn off the ignition of wrecked vehicle(s). Don’t smoke! Fire is a great danger.

Involved in a Collision?

If you are involved in a vehicle collision—STOP. If you don’t stop, you may be convicted of a “hit and run” and could be severely punished. Someone could be injured and need help. Call 9-1-1 immediately to report the collision to the police or CHP. You must show your driver license, vehicle registration card, evidence of financial responsibility, and current address to the other driver or persons involved, or to any peace officer. Evidence of financial responsibility is usually an insurance company name and a policy number. If you do not have it, you will receive a citation and a \$250 fine.

You must do the following:

- Move your vehicle off the street or highway if no one is injured or killed. If you do not move your vehicle or have it removed from the street or highway, any peace officer or authorized personnel may have your vehicle removed and impounded. (CVC §§22651 and 22651.05)
- Pull over to the side of the road and stop if you kill or injure an animal. Try to find the owner. If you can’t find the owner, call the nearest humane society, police, or CHP. Do not try to move an injured animal. Never leave an injured animal to die.
- Try to find the owner if you hit a parked vehicle or other property. Identify yourself before you leave. If you can’t find the owner, leave a note with your name and address (and the name and address of the owner of the vehicle you are driving) in the vehicle or securely attached to it. Report the collision without delay to the police or, in unincorporated areas, to the CHP.
- Report the collision in writing to the police or CHP without delay if anyone is killed or injured and law enforcement was **not** present at the scene. When the driver of a vehicle involved in a collision is physically unable to report a collision to the police or CHP, any occupant in the vehicle at the time of the collision shall make the report on behalf of the driver.

You or your insurance agent, broker, or legal representative must do the following:

- Report the collision by completing a Report of Traffic Accident Occurring in California (SR1) to the DMV within 10 days if there is more than \$750 in damage to the property of any person, or anyone is injured (no matter how slightly) or killed.