

**The NHTSA states that, distracted driving is the number one cause of accidents and a, "deadly epidemic."**

**Over a million people died in auto accidents last year and another two million were seriously injured!**

## **Driving safety tips to avoid accidents**



When you're behind the wheel of a car – whether alone or with passengers – driving safely should always be your top concern. We're more distracted than ever, so it's crucial to know the basics of safe driving and practice them every time you're on the road. Here are some safe driving tips:

### **Top 4 driving safety tips**

#### **1. Focus on driving**

- Keep 100% of your attention on driving at all times – no multi-tasking.
- Don't use your phone or any other electronic device while driving.
- Slow down. Speeding gives you less time to react and increases the severity of an accident.

#### **2. Drive "defensively"**

- Be aware of what other drivers around you are doing, and expect the unexpected.
- Assume other motorists will do something crazy, and always be prepared to avoid it.
- Keep a 2-second cushion between you and the car in front of you.
- Make that 4 seconds if the weather is bad.

#### **3. Plan ahead**

- Build time into your trip schedule to stop for food, rest breaks, phone calls or other business.
- Adjust your seat, mirrors and climate controls before putting the car in gear.
- Pull over to eat or drink. It takes only a few minutes.

#### **4. Practice safety**

- Secure cargo that may move around while the vehicle is in motion.
- Don't attempt to retrieve items that fall to the floor.
- Have items needed within easy reach.
- Always wear your seat belt and drive sober and drug-free.

## **What to do after an accident**

If you're in an accident, first make sure no one in the car is injured. Next, check on the passengers in the other vehicle, pedestrians and anyone else nearby to make sure they're OK. Then do these five things:

1. Stay at the scene. Leaving can result in legal consequences, like fines or additional violations.
2. Call 911 or the local police immediately. They'll dispatch an officer and medical personnel to the scene of the accident, if needed. If they do not dispatch an officer, be sure to exchange insurance identification information.
3. If you're on a busy highway, stay inside the car and wait for the police or an ambulance. It's dangerous if passengers stand along a freeway or other road with lots of traffic.
4. Don't get into an argument or a fight with the other driver. Simply exchange contact and insurance information. If possible, also get the name and phone numbers of witnesses.
5. Call Buckman-Mitchell, Inc. to report the claim. You can also download our BMI app. on your smart phone. This app will direct you to obtain the correct information, download photos and map the area of the accident. This information is e-mailed directly to the BMI claims team.

## **What to Do After a Hit-and-Run Accident**

**Unfortunately, this is happening way too often.**

Record the Most Important Info

If the driver that struck your car leaves the scene, gather as much information as you can to relay to police. The essentials:

- License plate number
- Make and model of car
- Color of car
- Approximate year of car
- Time and location of accident
- Contact information of potential witnesses
- Direction the driver headed
- Pictures of the scene and damage to your car

Report the Incident to Police

Call the police as soon as possible and file an accident report. Give them:

- Names of possible witnesses
- Exact location of accident
- Direction the driver was heading