

WHAT TO DO AFTER A CRASH

Crashes can be scary and disorienting. Whether you are a bicyclist or pedestrian, here are some important actions to take if you have been in a crash.

1. SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION

Never refuse paramedics' help. You might not realize how injured you are.

2. CALL THE POLICE AND FILE A REPORT

Ask the police to come to the scene of the crash. You are entitled to a police report and investigation. The officer will give you a copy of the report.

3. GET ALL THE INFORMATION

—Drivers license and license plate numbers

—Insurance card information

—Witness names and contact information

If you are unable to talk to anyone when the crash occurs, revisit the scene at the same time of the day and ask businesses owners or neighbors if they remember anything.

—Document injuries and damage with photographs.

Try to take photos before moving the damaged bicycle, but only if it is safe to do so.

—Keep all medical documents and receipts.

—An insurance company may call you to ask for a recorded statement about your crash. *You do not have to give a statement. It is strongly advised that you seek legal advice prior to speaking with an insurance company.*

4. LEGAL ACTION

Do I need a lawyer?

If you are injured, contact a lawyer right away. Learn how they charge before you work with them. If you feel you do not need a lawyer, you may consider handling the insurance claim yourself.

Criminal Prosecution

Crashes can result in a number of charges, including reckless driving, DWIs, assault, assault with a deadly weapon, battery, leaving the scene of a crash and failing to provide aid.

A lawyer can advise you on contacting the state attorney's office regarding charges.

Suing an offender (Civil Suits)

Civil suits usually result in money awarded, while criminal prosecution may result in prison time. Seek an attorney to sue a person.

Information from <http://www.activetrans.org/crashsupport/faq>

Please Note: None of this is intended as legal advice. Neither the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization or its employees, is responsible for any loss incurred as the result of this information.