

How to Create a Car Accident Preparedness Kit



Summer travels are in full swing and there are more cars out on the road these days; some not to keen on “driving defensively” I might add, but that is a story for another day. Today I would just like to remind you to do your part in travel preparedness by making a list of some extra things to pack before you head on out to your vacation destination to better prepare you for any accidents.

Car accidents are in and of itself very stressful and frustrating to say the least. Although we can never be fully prepared for any accident we can always be as proactive as we can. After an accident, adrenaline and emotions may run high making it that much more difficult to focus on the necessary steps you need to take to document the appropriate information to ease the claims process.

Items You Will Need

- ✓ Small Bag
- ✓ Checklist
- ✓ Pens/Pencils/Paper
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ First Aid Kit
- ✓ Emergency Number List
- ✓ Auto Club Information
- ✓ Set of cones
- ✓ Warning triangles
- ✓ Emergency flares

Small Bag: You will need a small bag that is durable and can stay inside your vehicle at all times. Fill it with the items listed below.

Checklist: The checklist is one of the most important things you will keep in your kit. Write your checklist of the most important things you need to check or ask immediately after an accident. 1) Check for injuries, call 911 if necessary; 2) Look at vehicle damage and determine whether it is a safe area to stay; 3) Take pictures of the accident scene before moving either vehicle; 4) Ask for driver's license, insurance and vehicle information. This checklist will provide a guideline to keeping your cool during a very stressful and sometimes scary time.

Pens/Pencils/Paper: Keep a pad of paper, two pens that are capped, and pencils in your bag at all times. Have a list of your necessary information already filled out, along with the same list of information with blanks next to them to be completed with other vehicle information. Write down the following for the other party: Name, Driver's License Number, Address, Phone Number, Date of Birth, Their Insurance Name, Their Insurance Policy Number, Their Insurance Phone Number, License Plate Number, Make Model and Year of Vehicle, Color of Vehicle and VIN Number of vehicle. Preparing this in advance will save time and will keep you from forgetting all the information you will need.

Flashlight: You will want to keep a flashlight in your bag just in case the accident happens at night. You will want to check to see if anything is leaking from your vehicle to determine whether or not it is a hazard to stay close, also you want to be able to examine yourself, passengers or others involved for injuries.

Camera -digital or disposable: It is always a good idea to have a camera with you at all times. You may choose to keep a disposable one in your car at all times, or, with digital cameras being so slim these days, they are so easy to carry. You will want to take pictures of the accident scene such as the area of the accident, the angle or impact, the damage done, as well as those involved or any witnesses.

First Aid Kit: You should already have a first aid kit in your car kit, but you might want to keep another, maybe smaller version in this kit as well; maybe extra gauze and cleaning items.

Emergency Number List: I like to have these on a business card size piece of paper in my wallet tucked behind my driver's license and emergency card. I find this much easier to retrieve than looking up your list of numbers on your cell phone's "phonebook". You may want to keep this list in three places: your cell phone, your glove compartment and in your emergency kit. **Numbers to include in your list:** loved ones to be contacted, personal physician information, medical conditions or allergies, health insurance information, auto insurance and car club information. If you choose to put these numbers in your glove compartment and car kit, you may want to put them into a plastic baggie type of bag.

Cones, Warning Triangles, Flares: Keep the area around the accident a little safer by displaying these items.

After you have everything you need in your vehicle, make sure you tell your family about these items and where you have placed them. You want to make sure that everyone in your vehicle has the same opportunity to respond as you do.

Do your part in vehicle accident preparedness and use these tips for your every day travels as well.

Happy travels.



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