

“What to Do in Case” Series

Greensboro Police Department

You witness a traffic accident:

- Take a deep breath and stay calm. Pull over and stop in a safe location out of traffic.
- If it is safe to do so, check to see if anyone is injured.
- Call 911. Be prepared to give your location, number of people injured and type of injury, description of cars, and license plate numbers.
- Render aid to the extent you are qualified.
- Move the vehicles off the roadway only if it is in a dangerous location for other motorists. Sight distance, light level, road condition, and type of road should influence your decision.
- Turn on hazard lights, and put out orange warning triangles.
- If possible, find other witnesses. Do not discuss the crash with them. This can distort your account of what happened.
- If the crash turns into a hit and run, collecting the car description and tag number can be particularly important.

