



Accidents
BURG & BROCK

ROADSIDE-READY CHECKLIST

What to Do After an Accident

An eight-step playbook (with a tear-out wallet card) for the minutes and days after a crash.

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~~last updated: May 08, 2026~~

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Information here is general and is not legal advice. Past results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

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Last updated: May 08, 2026

Read this before you need it

The first hour after a crash sets the ceiling on what your case can become. Memory fades. Vehicles get towed. Witnesses drive off. Adjusters call within 24 to 48 hours and start steering the story. The eight steps below are the ones we wish every client had walked through before they called us.

Print this and keep a copy in the glove box. The wallet card on the last page is meant to be cut out and carried with your registration.

If you are reading this from a crash scene

Skip ahead to Step 1. Call 911 if anyone is hurt. Then call (888) 528-8595 from the scene if you can – we answer 24/7 and can tell you exactly what to photograph before the cars are moved.

Step 1 — Make sure everyone is safe and call 911

- 1** Check yourself first for serious injury. Do not move if you suspect a spinal injury.
 - 1** Check passengers and the other vehicle's occupants from a safe distance.
 - 1** Call 911 even if injuries seem minor. A police report and an EMS contact create the official paper trail your case will rest on.
 - 1** If the vehicles can be moved and the scene is dangerous (freeway, blind curve), pull onto the shoulder. Otherwise leave them where they came to rest.
 - 1** Turn on hazards. Set flares or triangles if you have them.
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Step 2 — Photograph everything before anything moves

Phones make this step trivial. Take more than you think you need; you cannot go back.

- 2** Wide shots of the full scene from four directions.

- 2** Close-ups of every point of damage on every vehicle.

- 2** License plates of all vehicles involved.

- 2** Skid marks, debris fields, glass, fluid trails on the roadway.

- 2** Traffic signals, signs, and lane markings at the intersection.

- 2** The other driver's license and insurance card laid flat.

- 2** Your own injuries — bruises, cuts, abrasions — including the next morning.

- 2** Anything in the other driver's car that suggests distraction (open phone, food, alcohol containers) — without invading their space.

Pro tip

Take a 30-second video panning the scene with audio. Narrate what you see: weather, lighting, who said what. That single clip has settled more disputed-liability cases than any single photo.

Step 3 — Exchange information without volunteering more

You owe the other driver basic identifying information. You do not owe them an account of what happened.

- 3** Full legal name, address, and phone of every driver.

- 3** Driver's license number from each license (photograph it).

- 3** Insurance carrier, policy number, and the phone number on the card.

- 3** License plate, make, model, year, and VIN of each vehicle.

- 3** If the driver is not the registered owner, get the owner's information too.
 - 3** If the vehicle is commercial, get the company name and DOT number.
-

Step 4 — Get medical attention today, not "if it gets worse"

Adrenaline masks injury for hours. Soft-tissue injuries, concussions, and internal bleeding routinely present a day or two later. Insurance adjusters use any gap between the crash date and the first medical visit to argue your injuries are unrelated.

- 4** Accept EMS evaluation at the scene if offered.
 - 4** If you decline transport, go to urgent care or your primary doctor the same day.
 - 4** Tell every provider how the injury happened — "auto collision on [date]" — so it lands in the chart.
 - 4** Follow the treatment plan. Missed appointments are the #1 reason claim values drop.
 - 4** Keep every prescription, imaging order, referral, and discharge paper.
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Step 5 — Get the police report number before you leave

Officers will rarely hand you a finished report at the scene. They will give you a card or slip with the **report number** and the agency that wrote it. Without that number, the report can take weeks to surface.

- 5** Ask the responding officer for the report number and badge number.
 - 5** Note which agency took the report — LAPD, CHP, sheriff, local PD.
 - 5** Ask when and where the report can be obtained (most agencies post a 5- to 10-business-day turnaround).
 - 5** If the officer cites the other driver, note the violation code on the spot.
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Step 6 — Lock down witness contacts now

Witnesses are gold on a disputed liability case and they vanish within minutes. The police report often catches one or two; you want every one of them.

- 6** Get full name, cell phone, and email from every witness.
 - 6** Ask each witness for a one-sentence summary of what they saw — record it on your phone with their permission.
 - 6** Note the position they were standing in and the direction they were facing.
 - 6** Get plates of any vehicle that stopped briefly and drove off — those drivers also count.
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Step 7 — Do not admit fault and do not sign anything

This is where most cases lose money before they ever start.

- 7** Do not say “I’m sorry,” “I didn’t see you,” or any phrase that admits fault — even reflexively.
 - 7** Do not give a recorded statement to the other driver’s insurance carrier. Ever.
 - 7** Do not sign a medical release the other carrier sends you. They are not entitled to your full history.
 - 7** Do not accept a quick check at the scene or a rushed offer in the first week. The medical bills have not arrived yet.
 - 7** Be polite, factual, brief. Names and contact info, then end the conversation.
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Step 8 — Call Burg & Brock

A free consultation is exactly that — free, with no obligation, on a contingency fee. We answer the phone twenty-four hours a day at **(888) 528-8595**. Bring the items from this

checklist and our team takes the case from there. The earlier we are involved, the faster the at-fault carrier moves on a fair offer.

- 8** Call (888) 528-8595 before speaking to the other driver's insurer.

- 8** Bring your photos, the report number, witness contacts, and any medical paperwork to the consultation.

- 8** If you cannot travel, our team comes to you — the consultation can be by phone, video, or in person at any of our seven offices.

Tear-out wallet card — keep this in your glove box

BURG & BROCK — POST-ACCIDENT CARD

Call (888) 528-8595 (24 / 7)

1. 911 first if anyone is hurt.
2. Photos of scene, plates, damage, injuries.
3. Exchange driver, insurance, plate info.
4. See a doctor today.
5. Get the police-report number from the officer.
6. Witness names + cell numbers before they leave.
7. No recorded statement. No medical release. No fault admission.
8. Call Burg & Brock before the other carrier calls you.

Talk to a Burg & Brock attorney — free, confidential, no obligation.

Seven offices across California. We answer the phone twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and our fee is contingent — you owe nothing unless we recover for you.

Call (888) 528-8595

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