WHATCAR? CHECKLIST

WHAT TO DO IN AN ACCIDENT

It's easy to become confused if you are involved in a traffic accident or just witness one, so keep this guide in your car's glove compartment (ideally with a pen and disposable camera) and use it so that you act safely and follow the correct procedures.

❑ **It is an offence not to stop** at the scene if you think your accident has caused injury or damage to vehicles or property.

❑ **Ensure the scene is safe.** Switch off all cars' engines, turn on hazard warning lights and make sure oncoming traffic is aware of the accident.

❑ **Dial 999 (or 112 from a mobile)** if anyone is injured, the collision has caused a hazardous situation, or someone leaves the scene without exchanging details.

❑ **Stay calm.** Don't admit blame or offer any form of settlement no matter how clear-cut you may think the cause of the accident is.

❑ **Carry a notebook, pen and camera** in your car (a mobile phone picture is fine, too). Use the pad to sketch out how the accident happened while you are at the scene, detailing information such as street names, vehicle locations and direction of travel, skid marks, collision points and vehicle damage. Back this up with photos.

❑ **Note the registration number** of all vehicles at the scene, as well as their make, model and colour.

❑ **All drivers** must exchange contact details by law. Get their name, address, phone numbers (both house and mobiles) and insurance details. You must also provide this information.

❑ **Get the names, addresses and vehicle registrations** of any witnesses. Passengers in other vehicles involved can be witnesses, too.

❑ **Record any other details** you think may be important - for instance, if you think the driver of the other vehicle has been drinking or using a mobile phone or if the weather or road conditions contributed to the accident.

❑ **By law, if your car hits a dog or farm animal** you must report the incident to the police. If you hit a cat or wild animal, there is no obligation to report it as long as the animal is not injured or suffering.

❑ **You must notify your insurance company** immediately of any collision you are involved in, regardless of whether a claim will be made or whose fault it was. Give your insurers all the details of the incident you took from the scene.

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