What to Do if Involved in an Accident?

Accidents do happen, but taking the proper steps can ensure safety and resolve this incident. Follow the steps below.

- Have your license, registration and insurance information readily available when operating a motor vehicle.
- If an accident occurs on a busy roadway, turn on your flashers and proceed to a safe location if possible to await police.
- Do not argue with the other driver(s).
- If involved in an accident, contact your police department to come and assist. The police will evaluate injuries and damages, and verify each party has all the necessary information before leaving the scene. Police may also issue a traffic summons based on their investigation on the accident events.
- Police officers will conduct a crash investigation if combined damages exceed $1,500 or if an injury occurs. Copies of the report can be requested through the police department.
- If the accident is minor (total damages less than $1,500) the police will facilitate an information exchange for the involved parties.
- Pictures are recommended. If you decide to take photos of the damages, consider where you are. Safety is your number one priority. Taking photographs on a busy highway or in a busy intersection may not be safe.
- Upon completing a crash investigation, Police will assist in contacting a tow to remove your vehicle if it’s not operable.
- When involved in an accident where the other party is not present, you must make an effort to locate the owner. If contact is not possible, you must contact the police. Leaving the scene of an accident without making such notification is a criminal offense.
SPRING IS HERE – APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS: WET WEATHER DRIVING

Spring and summer weather brings rain showers, which can result in treacherous driving conditions. Nearly 1.2 million traffic crashes occur each year on wet pavement with more than one-half million persons injured and 5,700 killed, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. AAA and the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education remind motorists to brush up on wet-weather driving techniques before they get caught out in the rain.

Safety Starts Before You Drive

Before wet weather hits, it's important to prepare your car in advance. Replace windshield wipers that leave streaks or don't clear the glass in a single swipe. The life of a rubber insert is typically six to twelve months, depending on its exposure to heat, dirt, sunlight, acid rain and ozone. Streaking and chattering are common clues that the rubber is breaking down and replacement is needed.

Also, make sure all headlights, taillights, brake lights and turn signals are properly functioning to be sure other drivers will see you during rain and other reduced visibility conditions.

Tire tread depth and poor inflation also are imperative to maintaining good traction with wet roadways. To check tread depth, insert a quarter upside down into a tire groove. If you can see above Washington's head at any point, replace your worn tires. Check the tire pressures (including the spare) at least once a month when the tires are cold. Always follow the inflation pressure recommendations in your owner's manual, or those on the tire information label located in the glove box or on the driver's door jamb. Do not use the inflation pressure molded into the tire sidewall; this is the pressure needed to achieve the tire's maximum rated load capacity, and it may not be the correct pressure for your particular car. Uneven or excessive wear of the tire tread may indicate the need for suspension repair or wheel alignment, both of which will extend tire life.

Avoid Cruise Control

When driving in wet-weather conditions, concentrate fully on every aspect of driving. Most modern cars feature cruise control. This feature works great in dry conditions, but when used in wet conditions, the chance of losing control of the vehicle can increase. Avoiding cruise control will allow the driver more options when responding to a sudden loss of traction.

Slow Down and Leave Room

Slowing down during wet weather driving will reduce a car's chance of hydroplaning, which occurs when the tires ride up on a film of water and lose direct contact with the road surface. With as little as 1/12 inch of water on the road, tires have to displace a gallon of water per second to keep the rubber meeting the road. Drivers should reduce their speed to correspond to the amount of water on the roadway. At speeds as low as 35 mph, new tires can still lose some contact with a wet roadway.

To reduce chances of hydroplaning, drivers should slow down, avoid hard braking or turning sharply, and drive in the tracks of the vehicle ahead of you, but don’t follow too closely! Also, allow ample stopping distance between cars by increasing the following distance of the vehicle in front of you. Slow down early to stop for intersections, turns and other traffic.

Responding to a Skid

Even careful drivers can experience skids. If a driver feels a car beginning to skid, do not panic, and follow these basic steps:

◊ Continue to look and steer in the direction in which the driver wants the car to go.
◊ Avoid slamming on the brakes as this will further upset the vehicle's balance and make it harder to control.
College-Wide Active Shooter Preparedness Training

NOVA’s Police Department and Office of Emergency Management (OEMP) are collaborating to train the NOVA community on the active shooter threat and steps to protect yourself in this dangerous and unpredictable situation. The one-hour training session was conducted for the first time on the Annandale Campus and was well received. Almost 50 attendees uniformly gave the training an “A” with respect to its relevance, thoroughness, professional delivery, and interest, stating the training should be mandatory for the entire NOVA community.

Below are a few comments from the training:

* “Excellent training. Video clips were very effective and taught me a lot of new info. Should be required annually – like MOAT.”
* “Thank you for making this important and useful training available to the NOVA … community.”
* “Local NVCC info was very reassuring.”
* “Valuable info for everyone in any circumstance and location.”
* “I look forward to future training. The officers did a great job responding to questions.”

Contact Officer Ong (tong@nvcc.edu) to register for future Active Shooter training, to be held from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the following campuses:

* Medical Education Campus, March 29, Room 154
* Alexandria, April 19, AA 234
* Woodbridge, May 10, WC 409
* Manassas, May 17, Parrish 238
* Loudoun, May 24, LR 270
NOVA Police Community Outreach Events

The Office of Pregnant and Parenting Student Support
Lunch Workshops on Domestic/Relationship Violence

Students, faculty and staff — join us for a short, interactive presentations at each of NOVA’s six campuses on Domestic/Relationship Violence. Dates and times are listed below. Information will be provided on what services are available on campus and in the community to assist in Domestic Violence situations. NOVA Police will answer questions about criminal processes associated with Domestic Violence.

Free box lunch (for those who register*) will be provided during the presentation.

- Monday, March 19, 2012, 12 to 1:30 p.m. - Manassas Campus
- Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 12 to 1:30 p.m. - Alexandria Campus
- Monday, March 26, 2012, 12 to 1:30 p.m. - Loudoun Campus
- Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 12 to 1:30 p.m. - Annandale Campus
- Thursday, March 29, 2012, 12 to 1:30 p.m. - MEC Campus
- Monday, April 2, 2012, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. - Woodbridge Campus

*Register 14 days before the workshop for free lunch and room location.

Contact information: (703) 822-2013 / -2010 or bcotton@nvcc.edu.

DEA DRUG TAKE-BACK EVENT
April 28, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

NOVA Collection Sites

- Alexandria Campus
  Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center
  3001 North Beauregard Street
  Alexandria, VA 22311

- Medical Education Campus (1st Floor)
  6699 Springfield Center Drive
  Springfield, VA 22150

*We are not collecting any syringes.

Contact NOVA Police Community Outreach Officer Tony Ong for more information
Tong@nvcc.edu