



A Road Traffic collision could be one of the most traumatic situations that you will experience, and potentially one of the most dangerous. In all the actions that you take at the scene of an accident REMEMBER that your own safety is paramount. You should never put yourself at risk. The following is a guide to dealing with an accident scene safely and efficiently.

Assess the Situation

- Survey the scene. Do not approach the scene of an accident unless it is safe to do so
- Check for hazards – what could prove a potential danger? Look for leaking fuel, smoke or fire, hazardous chemicals etc.
- Find out what happened. Are there any witnesses? Try to gather as much information as you can.
- How many casualties are there, and what type of injuries do they have. Check for 'wandering wounded' or for pillion who may have been thrown well clear of the scene – rear foot pegs down on a bike may indicate the presence of a passenger.

Making Safe

- Look after yourself – do not put yourself at risk
- Warn approaching traffic. You can use your bike to provide a warning to oncoming traffic by placing it up the road from the accident. If there are others at the scene, send them in both directions to warn oncoming traffic. If the incident is near to a bend consider warning traffic prior to them reaching the bend
- At night or in poor visibility, if possible, use lights on undamaged bike or vehicle to illuminate the accident scene.
- Avoid chemical or fuel spillages, and ensure nobody on scene is smoking
- Battery Acid may also be a hazard at the scene. It will burn.
- Apart from being an indicator of a potential fire, smoke at the scene of an accident may contain noxious or poisonous fumes. Minimise your exposure to smoke wherever possible.
- Take care of damaged vehicles – watch out for sharp edges, broken glass etc.
- If there is a fire, keep clear. Fuel tanks are an obvious risk, but shocks, gas struts and suspension units can also explode in a fire.
- Airbags and seat belt pre-tensioners can go off at any time, causing additional injury. Avoid leaning into a vehicle where the airbag has not obviously been activated.
- Do not climb on or in unstable vehicles.

Things to Consider When deciding what action to take

- Location – what type of road, Motorway, A Road, or country lane?
- Position of vehicles – are they in a dangerous position, do they present a risk to other road users?
- Casualties – how many are there, where are they and what is the nature of their injuries?
- Communication – if you do not have a mobile, where is the nearest phone?
- Bystanders and witnesses – can they be used to warn traffic, call emergency services, assist at the scene as directed?
- Getting help – which emergency services are required, and what information can you give them?

Getting Help

- If you are taking charge of the scene, ask bystanders to call the emergency services by dialling 999. Always ask for Police and Ambulance services, and if anyone is trapped request Fire Brigade assistance as well.
- REMEMBER – Wherever possible do not leave a casualty. If you are on your own at the scene of an accident, and you do not have a mobile phone it may be necessary to leave the scene to call for ASSISTANCE. Alerting the Emergency services will be your priority in these circumstances.



- When informing the Emergency Services you should inform them of the following details of the accident
 - the location of the accident
 - the type and seriousness of the incident
 - number and type of casualties
 - any specific hazards which may be present at the scene
 - consider the route – is it blocked. Local knowledge may be of benefit here.

If there are Casualties involved

- Do not do too much. You cannot effectively treat all the casualties at once
- Assess the needs of the casualties. A Top to Toe survey will create your priorities – such as a casualty needing immediate resuscitation.
- Use plastic gloves if you have them. They will protect you and your casualty from infection.
- Only move casualties if they are in immediate danger as a result of their current position i.e. in the middle of the road, near a fire or chemical hazard
- When moving casualties be aware of possible neck or back injuries
- If it is necessary to remove a helmet always follow the prescribed method. Remember it takes 2 people to correctly remove a full-face helmet.

Removing a Helmet

- Do not move an injured motorcyclist unless they are in immediate danger – they may have neck or back injuries
- Only remove a helmet if the casualty has difficulty in breathing, is not breathing or is vomiting
- Two people are needed to remove a full-face helmet safely. One is required to support the head and neck at all times, the other to lift and ease off the helmet.
- Tilt the helmet backwards and lift it until it is free of the chin. Lateral pressure on the helmet itself may be required to ease the helmet over the ears. Move the helmet forward, so that it clears the base of the skull, and then lift straight off.
- 'Practice makes perfect'. Make sure that the first time you remove a rider's helmet it is not at the scene of an accident. Try to practice this regularly.

Scene Management

A – Assess the scene

C – Communicate information

T – Treat the casualties



Getting Help- What information? How do we give it?

E – Exact location

T – Type of incident

H – Hazards

A – Access

N – Number/type of casualties

E – Emergency services req.