Chapter 16
Collisions

16-1 COLLISIONS

A. Complete each of the following sentences by writing the correct word or phrase in the space provided.

1. Collision is a more accurate description of a vehicle crash than ________.
2. Almost all collisions are caused by ________.
3. All crashes are really ________ separate collisions.
4. In most cases, ________ involve rear-end collisions.
5. A ________ collision involves only one vehicle.
6. ________ are rare, but when they occur, there is a risk of the roof collapsing or being crushed upon impact with the ground.
7. A ________ collision occurs when two vehicles collide front to front.
8. The worst injuries in a ________ collision result when one vehicle directly impacts the passenger compartment of another.
9. A ________ collision results in the most damage when the vehicle impacted is not moving.
10. ________ collisions are staged by criminals to defraud insurance companies for fake or exaggerated injuries and property damage.

B. What are some of the indirect costs of collisions?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

C. How are most people hurt in a collision?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

D. What is the “swoop and squat” scheme?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
E. CHECK IT OUT.

Use the Internet to look up the latest annual national statistics on motor-vehicle collisions.

1. How many fatal crashes were there? _______
2. How many injury crashes were there? _______
3. How many property-damage-only crashes were there? _______
4. What percentage of fatal collisions were:
   - Solo? _______
   - Head-on? _______
   - Side-impact? _______
   - Rear-end? _______
5. What was the most common vehicle maneuver in fatal crashes? ______________________________
6. What were the five most common driver errors contributing to fatal crashes?

Use the Internet to find a recent article from an on-line newspaper about automobile insurance fraud involving “set-up” collisions. In the space provided, summarize what happened.
16-2 WHAT TO DO AT THE SCENE OF A CRASH

A. Select the word or phrase that best completes each of the following sentences and write the letter in the space provided.

_____ 1. If you are involved in a collision, your first duty is to:
   a. stop as close as possible to the scene.    b. call the police.
   c. proceed with caution if uninjured.    d. drive to the nearest hospital.

_____ 2. If you leave the scene of a crash in which you are involved without being directed to do so by law-enforcement or emergency personnel, you can be prosecuted for the crime of:

_____ 3. When giving first aid at a collision site, you should cover victims with blankets or clothing to minimize:
   a. exposure to the elements.    b. exposure to HIV.
   c. shock.    d. muscle spasms.

_____ 4. Which of the following would not justify moving an injured person at a crash site?
   a. Being in the path of oncoming traffic    b. Being near downed power lines
   c. Exposure to rain    d. Being submerged in water

_____ 5. If a crash victim is bleeding and no bandages are available, you should:
   a. apply pressure over the bleeding area.    b. elevate the wound as necessary.
   c. get him or her to the hospital immediately.    d. Both a and b

_____ 6. After attending to the injured at a crash site, you should:
   a. call for help.    b. exchange information with others.
   c. report the incident to the police.    d. mark the scene with warning devices.

_____ 7. At a crash site, you have a legal responsibility to:
   a. exchange information with others involved.    b. determine who was “at fault.”
   c. take photos of the crash scene.    d. sketch the collision.

_____ 8. Most insurance claims for collision-related injuries are for:
   a. cuts.    b. neck sprains.
   c. broken bones.    d. concussions.

_____ 9. If other parties to a crash do not have insurance information, you should:
   a. make a citizen’s arrest.    b. ask witnesses to help detain them.
   c. gather as much information as you can.    d. All of the above.

_____ 10. When calling for help at a crash scene, be prepared to provide:
   a. your name and Social Security number.    b. your insurance company ID number.
   c. the location of the crash.    d. All of the above.

B. What are the penalties for “hit and run”?
C. What are your legal obligations to victims at a crash scene?


D. What steps can you take to warn other drivers about a crash scene?


E. What information are you legally required to exchange with other parties and law-enforcement officers following a crash?


F. What are you required by law to do if you hit an unattended vehicle or cause damage to someone's property other than a vehicle?


G. What should you do if you injure or kill a domestic animal?


H. What are your legal responsibilities as far as reporting a crash in which you are involved?
I. For each of the following sentences, circle T if it is true and F if it is false.

1. T F If you are not involved in a crash, you should never stop.

2. T F You should always attempt to render aid to crash victims until professional help arrives.

3. T F If you have to move an injured person, make sure that his or her head and neck are in alignment and delicately drag the person sideways.

4. T F The higher the speed of traffic, the farther back warning flares should be placed near a crash site.

5. T F You should always wait for the police to file a report of a collision before notifying your insurance company.

J. CHECK IT OUT.

Interview a paramedic. What are some of the most common mistakes people make at crash scenes? How long, on average, does it take to respond to a collision once it has been reported? What are the most common types of injuries he or she treats at a crash site? In the space provided, write down what you discover.

Contact your insurance company to find out what specific information you are required to supply in the event of a collision. How long do you have to report a crash to the company? How long do you have to file a claim? What can you do to improve your case if there is a dispute about who was at fault? In the space provided, write down what you discover.
16-3  PREVENTING COLLISIONS

A. Complete each of the following sentences by writing the correct word or phrase in the space provided.

1. In lower-speed situations, it may be more effective to brake and hold than to ________ to prevent a collision.

2. Even if you cannot avoid a crash by ________, you may be able to shift the impact toward the rear of your vehicle.

3. ________ may actually contribute to a side-impact collision.

4. Avoid making too sharp a turn at higher speeds to maintain control, especially if you are driving a vehicle with a high ________.

5. If a crash is unavoidable, the first thing to remember is to hit something ________ if you can.

6. By turning to your ________, you have a better chance of being sideswiped by an oncoming driver than being struck head-on.

7. All vehicles are designed with crash-resistant features that work to protect the passengers by spreading out the ________ of the impact throughout the car.

8. If you are about to be rear-ended, make sure that your ________ are straight.

9. Despite recent safety advances, most vehicles are less well-equipped to withstand a ________ impact than they are a head-on impact.

10. In most cases, you can avoid an imminent collision by executing a(n) ________ maneuver.

B. What is the proper way to “brake and hold”?

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

C. In which situations might speeding up help you avoid a crash?

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

D. What dangers do you face if you have to swerve to the left to avoid a crash?

_____________________________________________________________________________
E. What dangers do you face if you have to swerve to the right to avoid a crash?

F. What factors must you consider before driving off the roadway to avoid a crash?

G. What should you do if you are about to be impacted from the rear?

H. In the space provided, describe how you would apply the SAFE method to prevent a collision.

I. CHECK IT OUT.

Use the Internet to look up the latest crash test results. Which vehicle make had the best record? Which specific model scored the highest? Compare the overall performance of passenger vehicles, light trucks, and sport-utility vehicles. In the space provided, write down what you discover.
A. Select the word or phrase that best completes each of the following sentences by writing the letter in the space provided.

_____ 1. Most head restraints:
   a. adjust automatically.  
   b. are too high for most people.  
   c. are too far from front-seat occupants' heads.  
   d. have a tension device.

_____ 2. Which of the following is not true about safety belts?
   a. They provide protection against most crashes.  
   b. They keep you behind the wheel.  
   c. They prevent you from being ejected.  
   d. They cushion the force of impact.

_____ 3. Air bags are:
   a. a type of passive restraint.  
   b. a type of active restraint.  
   c. designed to deploy if you are not buckled up.  
   d. designed to keep you behind the wheel.

_____ 4. Air bags are designed to inflate in front-end collisions that have a force of impact equal to hitting a solid barrier at speeds:
   a. under 15 miles per hour (25 km/h).  
   b. of 15–18 miles per hour (25–30 km/h).  
   c. of 18–25 miles per hour (30–40 km/h).  
   d. over 25 miles per hour (40 km/h).

_____ 5. Rear-facing child safety seats are designed for children:
   a. until they are 20 pounds (9 kg).  
   b. who weigh 20–40 pounds (9–18 kg).  
   c. over 40 pounds (18 kg).  
   d. who sit in the front seat.

B. What are the dangers of having a lap belt that is too loose?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

C. What are the dangers of having a shoulder belt that is too loose?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

D. Who is required by law to wear safety belts?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
E. What are the three basic types of child safety seats?

F. When are you legally required to use a child safety seat?

G. For each of the following sentences, circle T if it is true and F if it is false.

1. T F Most drivers should raise their head restraints to the full “up” position.

2. T F Most vehicles today have a shoulder belt instead of a lap belt.

3. T F It is the driver’s responsibility to make sure that all occupants are buckled up.

4. T F Wearing safety belts doubles your chances of surviving a serious car crash.

5. T F Booster seats are designed for older children not quite ready for regular safety belts.

H. CHECK IT OUT.

Use the Internet to look up the latest annual national statistics on restraint usage.

1. What percentage of persons killed in traffic crashes were buckled up? ______

2. How many lives are saved each year as a result of using safety belts? ______

3. What percentage of front-seat occupants surveyed use safety belts? ______

4. What percentage of back-seat occupants surveyed wear safety belts? ______

5. Who does not wear safety belts? ____________________________________________

6. By how much is the risk of death or serious injury reduced by wearing safety belts? ______

7. How many jurisdictions mandate safety belts for front-seat occupants? ______

8. How many jurisdictions mandate safety belts for all occupants? ______

9. How many jurisdictions have “primary” enforcement of safety belt laws? ______
Use the Internet to find out what auto makers are doing to improve vehicle restraint systems. In the space provided, write down what you discover.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: COLLISIONS

Across
1. One way to avoid a collision
3. Place these near crash site
7. Type of restraint
9. Site of most chain-reaction crashes
10. What “set-up” crashes do
13. Your first duty if involved in a crash
14. Who pays for a collision

Down
2. Most accurate word for vehicle crash
4. Vehicle is flipped upside down
5. A common cause of crashes
6. What you must exchange at crash scene
8. Cause of most rear-end crashes
11. Hazard that justifies moving victim
12. Inaccurate description of crash
14. Situation when it is legal to speed
15. An action like braking and holding
## DRIVER'S LOG: COLLISIONS

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>What Happened</th>
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<td>Involved in collision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Observed collision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stopped at crash scene to render aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Used “brake and hold” action to avoid crash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accelerated to avoid collision</td>
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<td>Swerved to avoid collision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drove off roadway to avoid collision</td>
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