

## What do I do right after an accident?

- Make sure you are safe from oncoming traffic.
- Make sure you, your passengers and others involved in the accident are okay.
- Call the authorities.
- Call the claims phone number on your insurance card, or call Buckeye Benefit Consulting at 614-655-5635.
- Do not assume that you are fine. Let someone know you are injured or get to a hospital or doctor if you have any doubt at all that you might be hurt.
- Exchange insurance information as well as the names, license plate numbers, and phone numbers of others involved. Also note the names and numbers of witnesses if possible.
- Document the date, time and location of the accident.
- Record landmarks, names of streets or the address where the accident occurred.
- If you have a camera, or you have a cell phone with camera, take some quick photos. When you are asked to describe the accident – particularly if there are complex intersections and turning lanes involved, this will be helpful in remembering the details.
- In the case of a hit-and-run, jot down *whatever you can* – vehicle description, partial license plate, etc.
- It is generally recommended that you only discuss the details of the accident with your auto insurance company or authorities.
- Do *not* admit fault or assess blame; it's very human to feel at fault after an accident, even if you are *not* at fault legally!
- Get the names of witnesses before they leave the scene.
- Get the name and department of the police officer on the scene.
- If a police officer is still at the scene and you're not thinking clearly, once everyone is out of harm's way, you can *put the officer on the line with us* to help describe the accident.

