



## MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH SAFETY TIPS FROM THE GRR FIRE DEPARTMENT

### **If you are involved in a motor vehicle crash:**

1. Do you see fire? Do you smell smoke or gasoline?
2. Do a quick injury check:
  - a. Are you hurt? Able to get out of the vehicle?
  - b. Is anyone else hurt?
3. If you see fire or smell smoke or gasoline and are able to walk:
  - a. Turn off the engine.
  - b. Get out of the vehicle.
  - c. Help others out of the vehicle if possible.
  - d. Move to a safe place upwind from the vehicle, then...
4. **CALL 911!**
5. If the weather is bad and there is no fire, smoke, or smell of gasoline:
  - a. Consider remaining in the vehicle with activated emergency flashers **if** the vehicle is not in a traffic lane and conditions allow.
6. If the vehicle is in a traffic lane:
  - a. Activate the emergency flashers.
  - b. Exit the vehicle and find a safe place to wait for help.
    - i. To the side and behind the vehicle.
    - ii. Uphill and upwind if possible.
7. Set out LED road flares or other warning devices if available.
8. What happens next?
  - a. If there are no injuries, no fire, no leaking fluids:
    - i. The 911 operator will dispatch Montana Highway Patrol.
    - ii. The officer will offer to contact a towing company if needed, but the vehicle owner does have the right to choose and contact their preferred towing service.
  - b. If there are injuries, fire, the smell of smoke, or gasoline or fluid leakage:
    - i. The 911 operator will dispatch the fire department, an ambulance, and Montana Highway Patrol
    - ii. Assist others injured in the crash if you are able.

## **If you are the first to come upon a motor vehicle crash:**

1. Stop a safe distance behind the crashed vehicle, out of the line of traffic.
  - a. Park uphill and upwind depending on conditions.
2. Activate your emergency flashers.
- 3. Call 911.**
  - a. If you do not have phone service to reach 911:
    - i. Do a quick scene assessment (number of vehicles involved, are there injuries?) and move to a location where you have phone service; or
    - ii. Ask another passerby or a passenger in your vehicle to go to a location where there is cell service.
  - b. Accurate location information is critical to 911.
4. Help crash victims to the extent you are able.
5. Set out LED road flares or other warning devices if available.
6. When emergency vehicles arrive:
  - a. Be prepared to move your vehicle as emergency personnel direct.
  - b. Be prepared to stay at the scene to provide information about the crash to law enforcement.

### **Suggested vehicle emergency tools:**

1. 4- or 5-pound fire extinguisher.
2. Window glass breaker with seatbelt cutter.
3. A working flashlight. A headlamp is strongly suggested.
4. A set of flashing LED road flare lights.
  - a. Avoid pyrotechnic road flares—they are a fire hazard.
5. Roadside emergency kit.
6. Gloves: tear/puncture-resistant work gloves and nitrile industrial gloves.
7. Extra cold weather protection during the winter (for example: hats, warm gloves).
8. Reflective high-visibility lightweight emergency vest.

Check out the Gallatin River Ranch Fire Department website if you haven't already done so. It has everything you need to know about your fire department, including the Board of Trustees minutes and financial records, information about the Trustees and staff, and useful information about fire and medical safety: <http://www.grrfd.org/>.