

Sheriff's Points

by Sheriff Byron Nogelmeier

I just had an accident what do I do?

Are you confused when you have an accident? Do stand there and ask yourself what should I do?

Well I will try to explain some things and hopefully if you experience an accident you will be able to deal with the situation.

This is what state law says about a reportable traffic crash. Any motor vehicle traffic crash which involves death, injury or property damage to an apparent extent of \$1000.00 or more to any one persons property or accumulated property damage of \$2000.00 per crash. So if you have an accident and your car has sustained \$1500.00 damage the State requires a vehicle crash report sent to them. If your vehicle sustains no damage but there is property damage of over \$1000.00 to someone else's property a report still need to be filed.

You should always call law enforcement when you have an accident. This way they can make the decision as to whether or not a report needs to be filed. Law enforcement will automatically put a red tag in you vehicle which indicates that it has been looked at by an officer so an auto body shop can fix the vehicle or so another officer knows that your vehicle was not involved in a hit and run crash.

What about those darn car deer accidents? The same rules apply. Always call law enforcement and they will either come out right away or they can set up a time when they will meet you to fill out the report.

Am I going to get a ticket if I have a crash? If there is a violation of the law such as a stop sign violation or passing in a no passing zone you will probably receive a citation. If you are dialing your cell phone and go in to the ditch you could receive a ticket for careless driving. There is always the possibility that a citation can be written.

Last year in Turner County there were a total of 138 traffic crashes. There were 3 fatal crashes. 2 of the 3 fatal crashes involved alcohol. There were 32 injury crashes and 5 of them involved alcohol use. Then there were 103 crashes with property damage only and 2 of these crashes were alcohol involved.

It is our job to enforce the traffic law in order to make the roads safe in Turner County. By doing this we may save you from having a crash. Always remember to **wear your seat belt**. Have a safe summer!