

Multi-Vehicle Accident Checklist

Steps to take after a pileup in Denver

Based on Denver Multi Vehicle Accidents And Pileups Accident Lawyer by McCormick and Murphy

1. Immediate Actions at the Scene

Prioritize safety and gather initial information.

- Ensure everyone's safety and move to a safe location if possible.
- Call 911 immediately to report the accident.
- Check for injuries and administer basic first aid if trained.
- Do not admit fault or apologize to other drivers.
- Exchange contact and insurance information with all involved drivers.
- Note the location, date, and time of the accident.
- Identify and record license plate numbers of all vehicles involved.

2. Documenting the Scene

Preserve evidence for your case.

- Take photos of the overall accident scene from multiple angles.
- Photograph damage to all vehicles involved.
- Capture images of any skid marks or debris on the road.
- Take pictures of traffic signals, signs, and road conditions.
- Document weather conditions at the time of the crash.

3. Gathering Witness Information

Collect details from anyone who saw the crash.

- Identify any potential witnesses.
- Ask witnesses if they are willing to provide a statement.
- Record witness names and contact information.
- Note what each witness saw or heard regarding the accident.

4. Understanding Fault

Learn how fault is determined in pileup accidents.

- Understand that fault is based on the initial negligent act.
- Recognize that multiple drivers can share fault.
- Be aware of contributing factors like following too closely or speeding.
- Consider the role of distracted driving.
- Note if any driver failed to brake in time.

5. Working with Authorities

Cooperate with law enforcement and official reports.

- Provide accurate information to the responding police officers.
- Obtain the police report number.
- Request a copy of the official police report when available.
- Note the names and badge numbers of responding officers.

6. Preserving Evidence

Secure crucial evidence for your claim.

- Keep all repair estimates and receipts for your vehicle.
- Gather medical bills and records if you were injured.
- Save any communication logs with insurance companies.
- Consider if traffic camera footage might exist.
- Note any accident reconstruction analysis that may be performed.

7. Consulting Legal Counsel

Seek professional help to navigate your claim.

- Consult with an attorney specializing in multi-vehicle accidents.
- Discuss the details of the accident with your lawyer.
- Provide all gathered documentation to your attorney.
- Understand Colorado's comparative negligence rules.
- Ask your lawyer about establishing the sequence of collisions.

Resources & Further Reading

Use these pages while working through the checklist:

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■ Sample Case Result

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■ M + M in the community

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Document the scene and understand fault to build your case.