



INTRODUCTION

Parking lot accidents are one of the most common types of accidents that a driver could experience in the course of their career. Parking lot accidents can range from very minor to severe incidents. When a parking lot accident occurs, employees can feel a variety of emotions and stress about what to do in such a situation. This lesson presents some guidelines that employees can use when a parking lot accident has occurred.

COMMON TYPES OF PARKING LOT ACCIDENTS

Whether an employee is driving a big truck or a company-owned passenger vehicle, they could potentially experience one of the following types of accidents when being in a parking lot:

- Collisions with stationary or fixed objects
- Vehicle collisions
- Intersection crashes
- Slipping and falling
- Lift gate injuries
- Entry and exit injuries



WHAT TO DO IN A PARKING LOT ACCIDENT

Employees should follow their company's accident procedures when an accident occurs.

When a car accident occurs in a parking lot, employees should do the following:

- Do NOT leave the scene if you are the one responsible for the accident. Leaving the scene can be considered a hit and run and could result in a fine or jail time.
- Stop and put the vehicle in park. Vehicles should not be moved unless there is potential for additional injuries or accidents.
- Remain calm.
- Check for injuries. If someone is injured, call 9-1-1.
- Call local law enforcement.
 - *Note: Depending on the severity of the accident, law enforcement may not come out to investigate as the parking lot in question may be considered private property. Employees should be aware that some states may require that an incident be reported if the damage exceeds a certain dollar amount.*





DRIVING: PARKING LOT ACCIDENTS

- Gather and exchange information. Information should include:
 - Name of the driver
 - Name of the vehicle owner (if it is different than the driver)
 - Name of any passengers (if applicable)
 - Vehicle make, model, license plate number, and if applicable, vehicle number
 - Insurance information which includes the company name, policy number, and phone number to call for claims
 - Contact information
 - Contact information of any witnesses (if applicable)
- Use your designated work phone or digital camera to take pictures. Pictures should include:
 - Vehicle damage
 - Broken glass
 - Skid marks
 - Property damage
- Call your company and notify them of the accident. Follow any instructions that your company tells you.
- Fill out any required paperwork and turn it in as soon as possible.

HOW TO AVOID PARKING LOT ACCIDENTS

To help minimize the chances of a parking lot accident, employees should do the following:

- Drive slowly.
- Limit or eliminate distractions.
- Use your turn signals to indicate your actions to other drivers.
- Watch the actions of other drivers and pedestrians.
- Park in spaces that are further away from the building or large crowds of vehicles.
- When possible, pick spaces where you have the ability to pull forward to avoid having to back out of a space later.
- If you can't pull forward, back into a space.
- Ensure that there is enough room between your vehicle and any other parked vehicles before parking. For bigger vehicles like trucks, it is recommended that drivers get out and look.
- Try to park in the center of the space.
- Exit your vehicle when it is safe to do so.
 - For bigger vehicles like trucks, employees should use three points of contact when exiting the vehicle.
- Check traffic conditions before pulling out or backing up.
- Check for pedestrians before pulling out or backing up.

CONCLUSION

Parking lot accidents are just one of the many types of accidents that are associated with driving. Parking lot accidents are avoidable, but when they occur employees should remain calm and follow their company's accident procedures. By following the guidelines presented in this lesson, employees can help minimize their chances of a parking lot accident.

