



## **Reporting Accidents to the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles**

This article summarizes a driver's duty to report accidents to the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles.

### **1. Types of Accidents That You Must Report**

A driver involved in a motor vehicle accident in Oregon must report the accident to the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles when the vehicle s/he was driving sustained more than \$1,500 in damage; the damage to any vehicle was more than \$1,500 and any vehicle was towed; someone was injured or killed; or the damage to someone's property other than a vehicle was more than \$1,500.

### **2. 72 Hours to File an Oregon Traffic Accident & Insurance Report**

A driver involved in an accident in Oregon must file an Oregon Traffic Accident and Insurance Report with the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles within 72 hours of the accident. The form can be found at <http://www.odot.state.or.us/forms/dmv/32.pdf>.

### **3. If You Fail to Report an Accident Your License May be Suspended**

If you fail to file an accident report when required, the DMV can suspend your license until you file the report. On March 9, 2011, the Court of Appeals in the Hazen v. DMV case upheld the DMV's suspension of a driver's license for failing to file a report when someone in the accident claimed to have been injured even though the driver did not know at the time of the accident that anyone had been injured in the accident. To avoid having your license suspended, report the accident if there is any chance that someone was injured or a vehicle had more than \$1,500 in damage.

For more information about personal injury cases, please contact Gary R. Johnson at the Hurley Re, P.C. law firm. Email: [grjohnson@hurley-re.com](mailto:grjohnson@hurley-re.com)