



BusTrusted
DRIVER'S LIBRARY

VOLUME 05

IF YOU HAVE AN ACCIDENT

*The 10-minute scene checklist and the DOT rules
that follow — 382.303, 390.15, and your reputation.*

Every bus. Vetted. Trusted.

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Educational guide — not legal advice. Verify current federal, state, county, and local regulations before relying on any content.



VOLUME 05 · SAFETY SERIES

If You Have an Accident

Every operator gets one eventually. What you do in the first ten minutes — and the first 32 hours — decides whether it's a bad day or a company-ending one. Print this. Put it in every door pocket.

The first 10 minutes

- Stop. Stay. Secure the coach: parking brake, engine off if fuel risk, 4-ways on.
- Life first: check passengers, call 911, request EMS even for 'minor' complaints. Don't move the injured unless fire or traffic demands it.
- Protect the scene: triangles out (below). Passengers stay aboard if safe; if evacuating — well off the road, upwind, together.
- Say little, record everything: exchange info, never admit fault, never speculate. Facts decide fault later.

TRIANGLE PLACEMENT — traffic side · within 10 minutes of stopping



On curves or hills: move the far triangle back so traffic sees it before the curve.

Figure 1 — 10 / 100 / 200 feet, traffic side, within 10 minutes.

Document like your lawyer is watching (they will be)

- Photos: every vehicle, every side, plates, damage close-ups, wide scene shots, skid marks, signals, weather.
- People: drivers' info, insurance, witness names & numbers before they drift away, officers' names, report number.
- Write your own timeline within the hour. Download the dashcam file TODAY — before it overwrites.

The DOT testing rules — when a test is MANDATORY (49 CFR 382.303)





Figure 2 – Any YES lane means a mandatory DOT post-accident test.

- Timelines: alcohol within 8 hours (attempt within 2, document attempts) · drugs within 32 hours.
- The driver stays available. Leaving is a refusal — and a refusal is treated like a positive.

After the dust settles

- Accident register (49 CFR 390.15): DOT-recordable accidents logged and kept 3 years.
- Notify your insurer the same day — late notice can jeopardize coverage.
- Care for your passengers: safe onward transport, honest updates, a follow-up call. How you treat people on your worst day becomes your reputation.

THE DOOR-POCKET PACKET

This volume + insurance card copy + blank witness cards + a pen, in a zip pouch, in every coach. Five dollars of paper that has saved entire companies.

Sources & further reading: 49 CFR 382.303 (post-accident testing); 49 CFR 390.5/390.15 (definitions; accident register); FMCSA post-crash guidance.

Disclaimer: This volume is a free educational training aid for BusTrusted members, written in plain English from the sources above. It is NOT law, NOT legal advice, NOT a regulatory document, and NOT a substitute for the FMCSRs, your state CDL manual, your state/county/city regulations, your carrier's policies, or your coach manufacturer's procedures — where they differ, they govern. Laws and regulations vary by jurisdiction and change over time: always research and verify the current rules that apply to YOUR operation with the FMCSA (fmcsa.dot.gov), your state DOT, and local authorities — or a qualified attorney — before acting. BusTrusted and its authors accept no liability for actions taken in reliance on this guide.