

Vehicle Crashes and Steer It & Clear It Facts

- In 2002, more than 327,773 motor vehicle crashes occurred in Georgia.
- In 2002, there were 26,009 more crashes than in 1997.
- Once you are in a wreck, the odds increase tremendously that you can get hurt in a subsequent collision if you don't move your car out of traffic.
- Crashes occur more frequently in metropolitan areas with high numbers of drivers, vehicles and traffic.
- Clearing your car from the roadway can help save your life as well as the lives of emergency responders by allowing them to reach the scene of an emergency and reducing their exposure to traffic.
- From 1990 to 2001, the increase in crashes (39.29%) outpaced population growth (29.4%) and the increase in the number of licensed drivers (34.9%).
- Nearly half of the traffic congestion in Georgia is not related to the volume of cars on our roads but wrecks that are never moved out of traffic.
- If you Steer It & Clear It, you also help improve the overall quality of life for Georgia's commuters. For example, by reducing the time our highways are blocked by traffic crashes, we can reduce idling times and proactively improve air quality.



Georgians for Better
Transportation

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*A Campaign Funded by the
Governor's Office of Highway Safety*

Be Smart.

Steer It *and* Clear It!

- Save Lives
- Relieve Traffic Congestion
- Increase Traffic Safety



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Save your life, save others, keep traffic moving...Steer It & Clear It!

Did you know that nearly half of *all* traffic congestion is related to wrecks?

That's right...nearly half of congestion is caused by wrecks, most of them minor. A minor traffic wreck can cause a major headache for everyone on the road and endanger lives. All of us have inched along in traffic for miles only to discover a minor wreck with everyone involved standing in traffic. In fact, the wreck has created a far more serious situation that frequently results in more dangerous and costly secondary wrecks. Leaving cars in traffic is not smart or safe.

Is it OK with the police and insurance companies to move cars involved in minor wrecks?

Not only is it okay, it is now the law thanks to Georgia's new "Steer It & Clear It" legislation. Unless the wreck results in a death or injury, and if the vehicle is still driveable, the law now requires that you move the vehicle completely off of the road. In fact, not moving the wreck is a misdemeanor punishable by as much as a \$1,000 fine. That is money you may need to get your car fixed, and it is safer for everyone involved.

Does this law apply to all roads in Georgia?

Yes, from country lanes to major multi-lane highways. Being involved in a minor wreck is bad enough. Creating a traffic situation that could cause even more wrecks, injuries and congestion is worse for everyone involved. Be smart – Steer It & Clear It.



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