



CRASH PREVENTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Grades 9-12 | Lesson 9



Lesson Overview

In the Street Smart video, Andie and Austin are rear-ended at a stop sign. Neither is seriously hurt — but the next several minutes require calm, clear thinking.

This lesson covers both how to prevent crashes using the Haddon Matrix framework and exactly what to do when a crash happens anyway.





Learning Objectives

BY THE END OF THIS LESSON, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

Describe the three phases of the **HADDON MATRIX** and identify a preventive factor in each phase.

Execute the correct **8-STEP** post-crash response sequence, including when 911 is required.

Explain when to **CALL 911** immediately versus when to call police for an insurance record.

Analyze a crash scenario using Haddon Matrix thinking to identify missed **PREVENTION OPPORTUNITIES.**

Key Vocabulary

HADDON MATRIX:

A public health framework analyzing crashes across three phases (pre-crash, crash, post-crash) and three factors (human, vehicle, environment).

PRE-CRASH PHASE:

The period before impact — when prevention through driver behavior, road design and vehicle maintenance is still possible.

CRASH PHASE:

The moment of collision — where airbags, seat belts and crumple zones determine injury severity.

POST-CRASH PHASE:

The period after impact — where emergency response decisions, documentation and information exchange shape legal and medical outcomes.

HIT AND RUN:

The crime of leaving a crash scene without stopping, identifying yourself or providing reasonable assistance — always illegal, always the wrong choice.

The Haddon Matrix: Crashes Are Preventable

We call them accidents. But a public health framework shows they are predictable, analyzable and preventable.

PRE-CRASH PHASE: Driver behavior, road design, speed limits and vehicle maintenance prevent the crash from happening.

CRASH PHASE: Seat belts, airbags and crumple zones reduce injury severity when impact occurs.

POST-CRASH PHASE: Emergency response quality, documentation decisions and scene management affect outcomes.



THREE FACTORS apply
to each crash phase:

1. Human

2. Vehicle

3. Environment

Changing any factor in any
phase can reduce death or
injury — crashes are a system
problem, not just a driver problem.

AN ESTIMATED 94%

OF SERIOUS CRASHES

INVOLVE HUMAN CHOICE

AS A CONTRIBUTING

FACTOR, WHICH MEANS

THEY WERE PREVENTABLE.

Post-Crash Response: The 8-Step Sequence

In the video, Andie walks Austin through every step calmly. Knowing them before you need them is the whole point.



Post-Crash Response: The 8-Step Sequence



STEP 1

Check yourself, passengers and then the other driver for injuries.

STEP 2

Call 911 immediately if anyone is hurt, airbags are deployed or either vehicle isn't drivable.

STEP 3

Activate hazard lights to warn approaching traffic.

STEP 4

If the vehicle can be driven, move to a safe area off the road (shoulder, parking lot).



STEP 5

Stay calm. The crash is over — clear thinking now protects everyone.

STEP 6

Take photos and video of all damage on both vehicles and the scene.

STEP 7

Exchange contact info: name, license, insurance and registration with all drivers and witnesses.

STEP 8

Call police to get the crash officially on record — essential for insurance, even with no injuries.

Legal Requirements & What Never to Do

Every driver in Arkansas has **LEGAL DUTIES** after a crash.
Knowing them before the moment you need them is the goal.

YOU MUST

- ✓ Stop immediately — even if you believe you were not at fault.
- ✓ Provide your name, license, insurance and vehicle registration to all parties involved.
- ✓ Render reasonable assistance to injured persons — call for help; do not leave them.

YOU MUST NEVER

- ✗ Leave the scene — the legal consequences of leaving always exceed those of staying.



HIT AND RUN:

A misdemeanor in minor crashes; a felony if anyone is injured or killed.

In Arkansas, a hit and run involving injury is a felony — the consequences far exceed those of staying at the scene.

Class Discussion

1

In the video, Austin asks, “Should we still call 911?” and the answer is no, not in their situation. What three conditions would change that answer to yes?

2

Andie took charge while Austin was shaken. Why does knowing the steps in advance help you stay calm? What happens when you don’t know what to do next?

3

What is one thing in the pre-crash phase (something you have control over right now, before you ever drive) that could prevent a crash like the one Andie and Austin experienced?

Key Takeaways

- **HADDON MATRIX:** Pre-crash (prevent) → Crash (reduce injury) → Post-crash (protect outcomes)
- **CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY IF:** Anyone is hurt, airbags deployed or vehicle isn't drivable
- **8 STEPS:** Check injuries → 911 decision → Hazards → Move to safety → Stay calm → Photos → Exchange info → Call police
- Leaving the scene is **ALWAYS WRONG**.
In Arkansas, it is a criminal offense.



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