Things to Consider Post-Crash

Here are the top five things to consider immediately following a crash. To download a complete guide visit: familiesforsafestreets.org

Make Sure Evidence Is Gathered
Once a crash has been reported, evidence collection is key. Follow up with NYPD to ensure all witnesses are interviewed, nearby security camera footage is viewed/retained, and photos are taken. Family members and friends typically want to help. Advocating and/or gathering evidence is a task that might make sense for them.

Consult with an Attorney
Lawyers may help with the investigation and provide important advocacy on your behalf, we recommend you consult one as soon as possible. Please see our online guide for a list of important questions to ask. Most are usually paid on a “contingency” basis and will only get paid if they collect money for you.

Seek Support
Crashes are traumatic experiences. Logistical and emotional support are imperative. Take advantage of hospital and other support services including counseling and case management. Families for Safe Streets offers peer mentoring, a monthly support community, and additional guidance too.

Start an Insurance Claim
Initiate a claim with the driver’s insurance company. Keep in mind it is ok (and many attorneys advise) to only share basic information, despite pressure for you to share a full narrative, medical reports, and other updates.

Lean on Families for Safe Streets
Brace yourself. Healing from a crash, holding drivers accountable, and preventing further crashes takes persistence, perseverance and more patience than we'd like. We are a family of people who have been personally affected by a crash and we are here to support each other both individually and in the collective fight for safe streets.

It did not seem to us that life would go on, or that it should. What has made it possible to go on is the kindness and help of our community, and the chance to help life go on for others. That is what we honor as members of Families for Safe Streets.
—Ken Bandes, father of Ella
FSS SUPPORT COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For those who have been injured. Caregivers welcome too.

For those who have lost loved ones.

For those who have been injured and/or lost loved ones.

Please visit familiesforsafestreets.org and facebook.com/NYCSafeStreets for updates and locations. Weekday events start at 6:30 p.m.

March 4, 2020
Crash Survivor Social
Ever find yourself referring to life BC (before crash) and PC (post crash)? Join us for a casual evening of shared food, drinks, mutual support, and connection with others who have experienced traffic violence firsthand. We’ll share stories, guidance, tips, resources, and more. Appropriate whether your crash was recent or long ago.

April 1, 2020
Friends of FSS - Crash Support and Guidance for All
The impact of traffic deaths and injuries can be felt well beyond immediate family. Whether you’ve lost a friend, colleague, or someone you don’t know, you may experience a wide range of emotions and wonder how to be most supportive. Join us for this trauma-informed event to honor all those personally impacted by traffic violence — and to discuss how best to show your support.

May 6, 2020
Innovative Approaches for Traumatic Memories
The distress from having a loved one stolen in a traffic crash is unimaginable. Join us for a restorative and social evening to connect with others who have also lost loved ones in this senseless way. Learn about interactive techniques for relieving psychological stress — and share support, resources, stories, and more.

June 9, 2020
Rituals to Honor and Remember
Each day, we are confronted with life and death on our streets, particularly those who’ve lost loved ones or been injured in a crash. Together we will create a safe space to share rituals and other practices as a tribute to those we have loved and lost through traffic violence, whether inspired by art, religion or other traditions. Feel free to bring ideas and examples of your own to share, and together we will engage in a group memorial project.

July 8, 2020
Caring for Your Loved One (and Yourself)
Caregiving for a loved one injured in a crash is no small job. For some, it’s a chosen role and for some, it’s just expected. No matter the circumstance, this loving work can take a serious toll on your mind, body and spirit. It can also be incredibly rewarding. Join us for a casual evening of shared snacks and camaraderie to connect with others who give of their time and energy in this way.

August 5, 2020
Picnic in the Park
Have you been injured or lost a loved one in a crash? If so, you surely know that life’s not always a picnic. All the more reason to come together as a community... and have a summer picnic! We’ll meet in a NYC park (TBD), surrounded by nature’s wonder. Bring blankets, chairs, food, drinks, family, games and more — or just bring yourself!

September 2, 2020
Nature and Mindfulness
Re-experiencing joy after loss and trauma isn’t always easy. Join us for this experiential workshop where Mother Nature will nurture us with her many gifts. We will explore the power of nature and mindfulness as we strive to honor our loved ones’ memories and maintain our own self care.

October 14, 2020
Therapeutic Writing
Join us for a facilitated workshop as we explore writing as a powerful tool for healing. Not a writer? This evening is meant for you! No writing experience is necessary and exercises can be done in whatever language you prefer. Appropriate whether your crash was recent or long ago.

November 15, 2020
World Day of Remembrance
Join for this United Nations sponsored event as we honor and memorialize all those killed and injured in traffic crashes — along with hundreds of similar memorials across the country and around the globe.

December 2, 2020
Healing Sound Bath
Let’s join together before the winter chill sets in and the holiday bells start ringing. Relish in this unique opportunity to be immersed in beautiful sounds — and learn how sound can be an important relaxation and healing technique for our minds, bodies, and souls. No musical experience necessary.

January 22, 2020
Meaning Through Activism
Turning anger, frustration, and grief into action is not just a healing tool — it can truly make our streets safer. Hear from FSS members how it has helped them find a path forward. Want to explore whether change-making may be a tool for your own healing? Join us for this interactive evening and learn more about our 2020 campaigns and how to get involved in ways that make sense for you.

February 8, 2020
Sibling Support
Have you lost a sibling in a traffic crash? Was your sibling seriously injured? We know this pain can be unimaginable. Friends and family often have a tendency to focus on grieving parents, and for good reason, but what about the sibling experience? Please know you are not alone! Connect with other sisters, brothers (and other special relatives) at our first Sibling Support Community.

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