AFTER A CRASH

The first hour

1. **Call 911.** Ask for police and EMS, and make sure an official report is made, even if you feel fine.
2. **Save your footage.** Stop your Garmin, camera or ride app and save the file. Back it up as soon as you can. Don't reset or record over it.
3. **Photograph everything.** The vehicle, its plate, the scene, your bike, your injuries and the road.
4. **Get names.** Driver, insurance, witnesses and the officer's name and report number.
5. **Get checked.** See a doctor the same day. Some injuries, like concussions, show up later.
6. **Keep your gear.** Don't repair or throw away your bike, helmet, kit or computer. They're evidence.
7. **Don't give a statement.** Don't give a recorded statement to the driver's insurer before talking to a lawyer.

Then call us: 877-878-7584.

HURT ON A RIDE?

Talk to a lawyer who rides.

Hall Trial Lawyers represents injured cyclists and their families. Free consultation, and no fee unless we win your injury case.

CALL DAY OR NIGHT

877-878-7584

halltrials.com

Scan for this guide online, plus guides for South Carolina, Georgia and Illinois.

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PROTECTING THE PELOTON®

Know Your Lane

North Carolina

A rider's guide to North Carolina cycling laws, and what to do in the first hour after a crash.

HALL | TRIAL LAWYERS

Bicycle Advocacy · Injury Law · Immigration Law

NORTH CAROLINA LAW

The laws that protect you

Bikes are vehicles
In North Carolina, a bicycle is a vehicle and you have the same right to the road as any driver.

Passing distance
Drivers must pass at least 2 feet to your left and not move back over until safely clear of you (G.S. 20-149).

Passing on a double yellow
A driver may pass you in a no-passing zone only by leaving at least 4 feet or moving fully into the other lane, and only if you are not turning left (G.S. 20-150(e)).

Why proof matters most here. North Carolina is one of the few states with contributory negligence: if a jury finds you even 1% at fault, you can be barred from recovering anything. Video, ride data and witnesses often decide these cases.

ON THE ROAD

The rules you ride by

Lights at night
A white front light visible from 300 feet, a rear reflector, and either a red rear light visible from 300 feet or reflective clothing (G.S. 20-129(e)).

Helmets
Riders under 16 must wear a helmet (G.S. 20-171.9).

Position
Ride with traffic on the right side of the road (G.S. 20-146), and signal turns and stops.

Be seen, day and night
Daytime running lights, front and rear, make you visible from much farther away.

Ride predictably
Hold your line, signal early and make eye contact at intersections.

YOUR BEST WITNESS

Ride with a camera

A rear radar light like the Garmin Varia, or a front and rear camera, warns you about cars coming up behind you and records what happened if something goes wrong.

In a North Carolina case we handled, a rider's Garmin footage showed exactly what the driver did, and it made the difference.

Keep it charged
Make cameras and lights part of your pre-ride check.

Turn on incident capture
So a crash saves the clip automatically.

Save it right away
After a close call or crash, save and back up the file.

Deadlines & insurance

Don't wait
Most injury claims must be filed within 3 years; wrongful death claims within 2 years.

Check your own policy
Your own uninsured and underinsured motorist (UM/UIM) car insurance coverage can cover you on a bike when the driver has little or no insurance.