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teens still distracted

WHILE DRIVING



Despite knowing the dangers of their actions, nearly nine out of 10 teenage drivers continue to engage in distracted driving behaviors such as texting or talking on a cell phone, according to a recent survey.

The study, conducted by Seventeen magazine and AAA, asked nearly 2,000 teens ages 16-19 about their driving habits. While **84 percent** of the respondents indicated that they were aware that distracted driving could increase their risk of having an accident, **86 percent** said they still engaged in behaviors such as:

- Texting/talking on a cell phone.
- Eating.
- Applying makeup.

- Adjusting a radio, CD or MP3 player.
- Driving with four or more passengers in the vehicle.

The survey reveals just how difficult it can be to combat distracted driving among teen drivers since there are so many different types of distractions that can make for unsafe driving.

Distracted driving leads to nearly 6,000 deaths each year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Our firm encourages you to discuss the dangers of distracted driving with any teen drivers in your household. ■

BIG TRUCK TIRE blowouts

If you've done even a little bit of driving on Atlanta-area interstates and highways such as I-85, I-75, I-20, I-285, and Hwy. 400, you've probably come across the remnants of a tire blowout from a tractor trailer or other large truck at some point.

Unfortunately, a truck tire blowout can lead to a serious accident if the truck driver loses control when the blowout occurs or if another driver swerves to avoid the large strips of rubber and other debris scattered all over the road after a blowout.

The three most common causes of truck tire blowout or failure are:

1. Tires that are defective. Sometimes tire manufacturers sell defective tires that end up being recalled.
2. Improper maintenance of tires. Trucking companies often make mistakes such as allowing drivers to use tires that don't have enough tread, mounting tires that are different sizes or that have major differences in tread wear, or mixing different types of tires (bias and radial) on the same axle.
3. No pre-trip tire inspection or a poor inspection. Truck drivers are required to do a pre-trip inspection. If they fail to do the inspection or perform the inspection but don't notice obvious signs of a problem such as worn tread, sidewall damage, or over or under inflation issues, a trucking accident may occur.

If you have been involved in an accident caused by a big truck tire blowout, you should seek the counsel of an experienced trucking accident attorney. Truck accident cases are often very complicated, involve multiple insurance companies and usually require a thorough understanding



DON'T LET YOUR PAST COME BACK TO haunt you

If you have been hurt in a car or truck accident, chances are good that you are mainly focused on how to heal from your current injuries and how to handle your medical bills.

Chances are also good that you aren't really thinking about prior injuries or accidents that you've had. However, your injury and accident history is critical information that could end up limiting your ability to collect compensation if you don't share it up front and truthfully with your attorney.

Why is that?

Well, for starters, the insurance company will stop at nothing to limit the amount of money it has to pay out for claims, and you can bet that its investigators will be digging up every bit of information they can find to use against you.

The insurance company's goal will be to try to show a link between your current injuries and some accident or injury you've had in the past. The key is that your attorney can prepare for and deal with these arguments and tactics — if he or she knows about your past ahead of time.

Never let the insurance company be the first one to know about your history. Be 100 percent honest with your attorney about your past and give yourself the best opportunity to collect for your injuries. ■

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I WASN'T EVEN DRIVING...

why am I getting sued?



It didn't seem to be a big deal at the time. You were at a party when your best friend asked you if he could borrow your car to run a quick errand. The only problem was that he had been drinking (you knew that but figured he was okay to drive).

He ended up having an accident in which someone got hurt, and now you've learned that you are being sued by the injured victim. How can that happen?

In some states if you lend your car to a reckless, incompetent or unfit driver, you can be held liable for damages caused by the driver if he or she gets in an accident. This is known as negligent entrustment. To win damages in this type of case the person bringing the lawsuit has to prove that you knew or should have known that the driver you lent the car to was not fit to drive at that time.

Some examples of drivers that you could be held liable for if you lend them your vehicle include:

- A drunk driver.
- An underage driver or unlicensed driver.

- An inexperienced driver (such as a driver with just a learner's permit who is allowed to drive unsupervised).
- An elderly driver who is extremely frail or has really slow reaction times.
- A driver with an illness that makes him or her unfit to drive (such as narcolepsy which can cause them to fall asleep at the wheel).
- A driver with a history of reckless driving.

If you or a loved one was injured in an accident and are considering a lawsuit against the driver and/or someone other than the driver, you should consult with an experienced car and truck accident attorney. ■

What Our Clients Are Saying

"I appreciate the professionalism and the efficiency with which I was handled. I was always kept in the loop and always felt that the Dover Law Firm had my best interests at all times. Dover is great!"

—Irving Rivera
Cartersville, GA

FAQ



Can a workers' compensation doctor be held liable for medical malpractice?

Yes. *Any* doctor who deviates from the accepted standard of medical care and injures a patient can be held liable for malpractice, including workers' comp doctors. It doesn't matter what type of doctor you go to see or what condition prompts you to seek medical attention. ■

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AND I WASN'T DRIVING –
SEE PAGE THREE.

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CONSUMER ALERT

drop-side cribs banned

After recalling more than 11 million dangerous cribs since 2007, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recently voted unanimously to ban so-called “drop-side” cribs as part of the first update of federal crib standards in nearly 30 years. The CPSC expects the new rules to usher in a safer generation of cribs.

Once they become effective in June 2011, the mandatory crib standards will: (1) Stop the manufacture and sale of dangerous, traditional drop-side cribs; (2) make mattress supports stronger; (3) make crib hardware more durable; and (4) make safety testing more rigorous.

The new federal standards will apply to all cribs manufactured, sold or leased in the United States. Child care facilities and places of public accommodation, such as hotels and motels,

must have compliant cribs in their facilities within 24 months after the rule is published.

Detaching drop-side rails have been associated with at least 32 infant suffocation and strangulation deaths since 2000, and additional deaths have occurred due to faulty or defective hardware.

For additional information on crib safety, recall announcements, and tips for creating a safe sleep environment for baby, parents and caregivers are encouraged to visit the CPSC’s crib information center at www.cpsc.gov/info/cribs. ■



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