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who's at fault IN A REAR-END ACCIDENT?

In the United States, a rear-end accident occurs approximately every eight seconds, according to recent statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Chances are, if you've been driving for a long time, you have, at some point, either been involved in a rear-end accident or come close to having one.

Rear-end accidents, much like left-turn accidents, are categorized as "no doubt" liability accidents. In these instances, there is near certainty as to who is to blame. In the case of rear-end accidents, it's the driver who hit someone else from behind who will be at fault just about every time.

One of the fundamental rules of the road is that when following another vehicle, you should leave enough distance between you and the vehicle in front of you to ensure you can stop safely if traffic comes to a halt. Therefore, if your vehicle is ever rear-ended by another car, the other driver will almost always be at fault for the accident – no matter what you stopped for.

The driver who hit you may be able to file a claim against a third vehicle – such as one that caused you to stop suddenly or one that rear-



ended his vehicle into yours – but the driver who rear-ended you is still responsible for your damage and injuries.

However, under comparative negligence, your compensation can be reduced if there is sufficient evidence proving your carelessness led to the accident. An example of comparative negligence is failing to replace taillights or brake lights that have gone out, which are both intended as safety features to help drivers behind you maintain safe distances.

Though liability in a rear-end accident may seem straightforward, getting the compensation you deserve can still prove challenging. If you've been a victim of a rear-end collision that left you or a loved one with injuries, you should consult with an experienced car or truck accident attorney to explore any legal options that may be available for you. ■

UNINTENTIONAL POISONINGS – who's at risk?



Unintentional poisonings are a serious problem in the U.S., and it's a problem that continues to get worse. Every day, over 80 people die from unintentional poisonings and nearly 2,000 are treated in emergency rooms. A poison is defined as any substance, including medication, that is harmful to a person if he or she inhales, consumes, injects, or absorbs too much of it. The bottom line is that any substance – even water – has the potential to be poisonous if too much is taken.

Most cases of poisoning in the United States occur unintentionally. In fact, according to recent data, approximately three quarters of all poisoning deaths in America in 2007 were unintentional – only motor vehicle crash-fatalities accounted for more unintentional deaths. Of those unintentional poisoning deaths in 2007, almost all were caused by drugs. Those included pain medications, such as methadone, hydrocodone, and oxycodone, as well as drugs like heroin and cocaine. Other forms of poisons include household chemicals and carbon monoxide.

In addition to the terrible death and injury toll, the annual medical and productivity costs for poisonings can easily top \$30 billion.

Adults have the greatest risk of dying from unintentional poisoning. In fact, adults between the ages of 45 and 49 are most at risk, with men twice as likely to die from poisonings as women. Things aren't improving either – death rates for unintentional poisoning have been steadily rising since 1992. ■

thank you for your help

We'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who took part in our recent campaign to help support the American Cancer Society. For each person who "liked" our Facebook page by November 1, 2011, we donated \$1.00 to the ACS.

Also, great job to everyone who posted pictures in our Halloween Costume Contest on Facebook. Congratulations to Lynn Walding, who took home a \$25 Toys-R-Us gift card for posting this terrific Cat in the Hat costume pic.



Cutest Costume Winner. To see more of the entries, go to the Dover Law Firm Facebook page.

If you still haven't "liked" our Facebook page, please take a moment to do so now at www.Facebook.com/DoverLawFirm. We post lots of important articles and updates to help keep your family safe, and we'll have additional contests and campaigns in the upcoming year as well. ■

A FINAL THOUGHT ABOUT TURKEY DAY

If you ate too much this Thanksgiving and felt fatigued afterward, scientists say you have only yourself to blame, not the tryptophan that was in the turkey. In reality, that sort of post-feast weariness typically is due to a combination of a large caloric intake, alcohol consumption, and the general relaxation that the holiday brings. Now you know!

where there's smoke

PREVENTING FIRE-RELATED DEATHS

In 2009, someone in the United States died from a fire every 175 minutes and someone was injured every 31 minutes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most of the deaths – approximately 85 percent – occurred in homes, and deaths from fires and burns are the third-leading cause of fatal home injuries in America.

We tend to think of fire as a danger because of its ability to burn, but that's not its most dangerous trait. Most fire victims actually die due to the inhalation of smoke or toxic fumes and not from burns. Those most in danger of being injured or dying in a fire are children under the age of 4 and adults over the age of 65. Living in rural areas or substandard housing can also increase the likelihood of fire turning deadly.

Although the number of fire-related deaths and injuries has gradually declined in recent years, many could have been avoided if the proper preventive steps had been taken, such as:

- Never leaving a hot stove or oven unattended

- Keeping cooking areas free of flammable objects
- Never leaving a lit cigarette unattended
- Avoiding smoking in bed
- Never emptying smoldering ashes in a trash-can
- Keeping matches and lighters in a high cabinet away from children
- Installing smoke alarms on every floor of your home, especially near bedrooms
- Opting for alarms with long-life batteries (if you use regular batteries, replace them annually)
- Testing all smoke alarms monthly
- Devising a fire escape plan for your family and practicing it every six months

It's also important to be cautious with space heaters and candles – keep them away from flammable objects like upholstered furniture or curtains.

Always stress the importance of fire safety to children and make sure they know to call 9-1-1 in case of emergencies. ■

What Our Clients Are Saying

The Dover Law Firm guided me through my injury claim keeping me well informed. I could have never dealt with the insurance company by myself. Sara Root is an impressive, personable attorney. I will definitely recommend the Dover Law Firm to my family and friends.

Julie Engley

Check This Out:

Nearly everyone has heard of the McDonald's hot coffee lawsuit in which an Albuquerque woman sued the fast-food giant after she spilled coffee on herself. In fact, most people point to that case as the prime example of a legal system run amok, where people are just out for a payday and willing to sue over just about anything.

But do you know the real facts about what happened to Stella Liebeck? Do you know why her case garnered so much attention and who ultimately stood to profit from it? You might be shocked to learn the truth.

Check out the brand new documentary film, *Hot Coffee*, to gain an entirely new perspective on this infamous case. The film came out on DVD on November 1, and can currently be viewed on HBO On-Demand. For more details, check out www.HotCoffeeTheMovie.com. ■

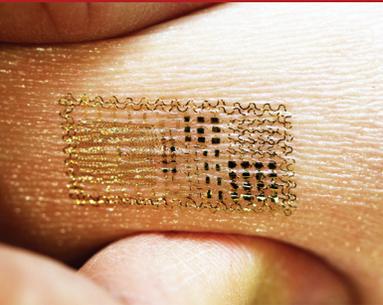
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Costume Contest Winner



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tiny electronic tattoos

THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL DIAGNOSTICS?

There's no question that medical professionals can only do so much for patients without the help of diagnostic tools. In fact, obtaining an accurate diagnosis is paramount to treating patients and getting them healthy again.

While advancements in medical technology over the last several years have made diagnostic tools far more efficient and accurate than ever before, there are still many drawbacks associated with them. In addition to being quite costly, most of today's diagnostic tools are bulky and are limited to use only at medical facilities. As a result, unless you're at the hospital, it's tough to monitor your health at any given moment.

That is, until now. According to a research team at the University of Illinois, there may be a day in the not-too-distant future when

tiny sensors actually can be worn by patients. Small, skin-mounted electronic patches – made of flexible, water-soluble plastic – may be the future of medical diagnostics. The patches potentially can be used as sensors for EEGs or EMGs, monitoring nerve and muscle activity.

Much like a temporary tattoo, the sensors are applied through water-based lamination onto the skin.

Besides added comfort for patients who've previously been subjected to gels, bulky wires, and tape, these sensors aren't confined to any one place. Other possible applications include research for sleep disorders, muscle disorders, and even neurological disorders. By interfacing skin sensors with computers, it may even be possible to translate throat movements into electronic speech. ■

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