



amusement park safety



what's inside

page 2

Lawsuit crisis?
Not even close.

New York to Los
Angeles in 37 minutes?

page 3

The Dover Law Firm
& Auto Accidents in
Georgia

May faq

page 4

Teen drivers: The
disturbing facts

With summer right around the corner, millions of Americans are gearing up to head to amusement parks, carnivals, and theme parks for thrills and excitement.

Unfortunately, dangers await them as well. Each year, on average, 10,000 people suffer injuries at parks and five people die, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Because rules on reporting amusement park accidents and injuries vary so much from state to state, and since many injuries go unreported, the true number of accident injuries is hard to determine.

The injuries that are reported range from less serious ones such as bumps, bruises and small cuts to more serious injuries such as broken bones, brain injuries, paralysis, and loss of limb. In one of the more tragic recent cases, a 13-year-old girl on a tower-drop ride at a Six Flags park in Kentucky had both of her feet severed when a

cable broke during the ride and struck the girl in the legs at a high rate of speed.

Overall, some of the main reasons for injuries at parks include:

- Rider error, such as standing up during a ride or removing restraints.
- Mechanical failure.
- Ride operator negligence, which may result from inattentiveness or failing to properly secure riders.
- Falls at entrances or exits to rides.

If you or a loved one has suffered a serious injury at an amusement park or carnival, it is important to contact an experienced personal injury attorney to determine if you may be owed damages. ■

Some websites, such as www.rideaccidents.com, have been created to help inform the general public about accidents that occur at parks, carnivals and fairs. Of particular concern is the amount of accidents and injuries sustained from so-called inflatable rides like moon bounces or slides.

lawsuit crisis?

NOT EVEN CLOSE.

Despite the constant proclamations from pundits on talk radio, the evening news, and the Web that the number of lawsuits is skyrocketing, it simply is not true. There is no lawsuit crisis in this country. In fact, the real numbers paint a far different picture than what we have been led to believe.

According to information cited by the American Association for Justice, the number of tort filings (personal injury cases) in state courts during the years 1998-2007 dropped 24 percent. And the downward trends don't stop at the state level. At the federal level, between 1985 and 2003, civil litigation filings in U.S. District Courts declined by 79 percent, dropping from 3,604 in 1985 to fewer than 800 in 2003.

Further dispelling the notion of a lawsuit crisis, the Bureau of Justice Statistics indicates that median awards from tort trials in state courts in the nation's 75 largest counties fell 18.4 percent between 1996 and 2005. In addition, as of 2005, the median jury trial award was just \$24,000.

Bottom line - our civil justice system is working, helping to hold Wall Street, drug companies, corporations and insurance companies accountable. ■

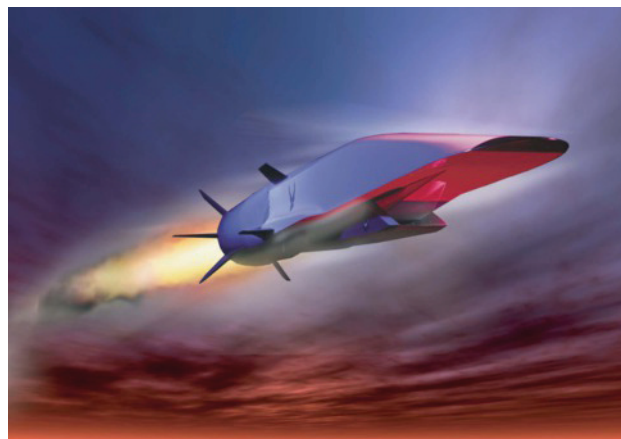
NEW YORK TO LOS ANGELES in 37 minutes?

A recent article on Forbes.com by Jonathan Fahey chronicles the efforts of researchers from the Air Force, Boeing, and United Technologies to develop a hypersonic jet capable of reaching 4,000 miles an hour (about six times the speed of sound).

Before you get too excited about the prospect of going coast to coast in about the time it takes to watch a Seinfeld episode, the jet is only in the early stages of testing and, at least initially, is more likely to be used for missile technology, advanced spy planes, or to help NASA develop better and less expensive ways to get to space.

The first of four unmanned test flights for the small jet, known as the X-51 Waverider, should occur this spring. You won't see this jet taxiing down the runway of LAX or JFK, though. Instead, the X-51 will be attached to the wing of a B-52 bomber that will take off from Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California. Once the B-52 reaches 50,000 feet, it will release the jet, which will then fire up its specialized engine and begin a short, high-speed journey before dropping into the Pacific Ocean.

If all goes well with the tests, the X-51 will be the third fastest aircraft in history and the fastest one powered by jet fuel. The fastest aircraft ever known as the X-43, reached 9.8 times the speed of sound in 2004, but was powered by hydrogen and flew for just 10 seconds. ■



*The fastest
aircraft
in history*
**COURTESY
OF NASA**

THE DOVER LAW FIRM & auto accidents in Georgia



day with a goal of minimizing how much they have to pay.

That means they have a tremendous advantage over you when you become the victim of someone else's negligent driving. A life-changing event for you or a loved one is routine for them. They can view the accident and your injuries dispassionately, with little thought about your physical and emotional pain, or the anxiety and frustration of not knowing how you'll pay your medical bills or make ends meet when you can't work.

About 68,300 people are injured in the 189,500 automobile accidents that occur annually in the Atlanta Metro area each year. Almost 550 are killed.

The Atlanta Regional Commission estimates the cost of medical bills, lost productivity and congestion delay from those accidents at \$4.7 billion.

With numbers that large, you can be sure that insurance companies know how to respond to those accidents. They have adjusters, investigators and attorneys who go out every

At the **Dover Law Firm**, we understand the suffering and worry that go with automobile injuries. We are passionate about doing everything we can to hold those responsible for them accountable. We recognize that you probably know little about the process of making that happen. That's why we explain what we're doing every step of the way. We tell you, for example, that you may be able to get partial compensation from your own insurance company while we pursue your claim against the person who injured you. ■

Dover Law Firm was excellent to me. They always responded immediately if I had any questions or concerns. They worked hard to get me the compensation I deserved, plus more. If I ever need a lawyer again Dover Law Firm would be who I call on. They have excellent representation from the attorney down to the investigator. If you have been involved in an automobile accident call on Dover Law Firm to get what you deserve. —N. Green

May Important Dates

May 5: Cinco de Mayo May 9: Mother's Day May 15: Armed Forces' Day May 31: Memorial Day

Dover Law Firm
3650 Mansell Road, #100
Alpharetta, Ga. 30022
(770) 518-1133
www.DoverLawFirm.com

weee!



AMUSEMENT PARK SAFETY

SEE PAGE ONE.

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

teen drivers

THE DISTURBING FACTS

For most teenagers, learning to drive and getting their license is a rite of passage they've looked forward to with excitement and anticipation for many years. Sadly, though, teens and driving can be a dangerous mix.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. In 2008, an average of nine teens died every day from motor vehicle crashes and more than 350,000 were treated at emergency departments for injuries. In addition, per mile driven, teens from the ages of 16-19 were four times more likely to crash than older drivers.

Despite the troubling statistics, there is hope for preventing teen crashes. Research shows that states with the strictest and most comprehensive Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) systems have reduced teen fatal crashes by 38 percent, and injury crashes by



40 percent. GDL laws delay full licensure and utilize restrictions (such as limits on nighttime driving or the number of passengers allowed) to enable teens to get their initial driving experience under low-risk conditions.

Our firm strongly encourages parents to know, understand, and enforce our state's GDL laws to help keep our teen drivers safe. ■

Visit us at www.DoverLawFirm.com