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AGGRESSIVE, ETHICAL REPRESENTATION FOR OVER 30 YEARS

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Important Steps to Take Following an Auto Accident



Over 6 million auto accidents occur annually in the United States, resulting in injuries to more than 3 million people and considerable property damage. If you are involved in an auto accident, take the following steps to ensure your well-being and protect your rights:

- If you are able, turn on your vehicle's four-way flashers and set up flares if available to give a heads-up to other drivers. Leave your vehicle where it is, unless it's causing a dangerous situation. If you aren't injured and can safely move it off the roadway, go ahead.
- Call the police, even if there seemingly aren't any serious injuries. A police report may be necessary to file a claim with your insurance company.

- Do your best to give the investigating officer accurate information. However, do not speculate, guess, or assume.
- Take cell-phone photos of damage and/or injuries.
- Exchange names, addresses, telephone numbers, and insurance information with the other driver(s) and passengers. If police respond to the scene, they will collect this information for you. Obtain basic information from witnesses (if any) to bolster a potential claim.
- Notify your insurance company about the accident as quickly as possible.
- Seek immediate medical attention, and tell your physician everything about the accident. In many cases, injuries might not crop up for days or even weeks. Even minor impacts can cause serious and sometimes permanent injuries.
- Possibly the most important thing you can do following an accident is contact an auto accident attorney. An attorney will protect your rights, prevent valuable evidence from being destroyed, and help you receive fair compensation for damages and injuries. •





E-Cigs Have Their Own Problems

When e-cigs first became available to consumers roughly a decade ago, they were marketed as a healthier alternative to traditional cigarettes. Since then, however, e-cigs have been exposed as potential health hazards in their own right.

E-cigs come in a wide variety of appealing flavors. Unfortunately, the flavor package partly consists of unhealthy ingredients: nicotine solution and humectants. Humectants are substances that help retain moisture and produce a vapor that is inhaled. They have been shown to cause upper respiratory issues and eye irritation. In addition, heating humectants via the e-cig device can create carcinogenic compounds. Nicotine itself can adversely affect heart rate, blood pressure, appetite, memory, alertness, and unborn babies, as well as contribute to depression.

E-cigs have also been known to explode, become projectiles, and injure unsuspecting users (and passersby). An e-cig is powered by a small lithium-ion battery, which packs a lot of energy but can be volatile. Sometimes there is a problem with the coil, which produces the heat necessary for vaping.

The e-cig industry had been unregulated until 2016, when the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stepped in. From that point, a two-year clock began ticking for manufacturers of e-cig products to submit a new tobacco product application (under which e-cigs are covered). It may take the FDA an additional year to review the application. The goal is to better inform and protect consumers, and hopefully prevent young people from getting hooked on e-cig products.

If you or someone you know has been injured by e-cigs, contact a personal injury attorney to protect your rights. •



September 2017 Important Dates

September 4 – Labor Day

September 11 – Patriot Day

September 22 – Fall begins

September 10 – Grandparents Day

September 20-22 – Rosh Hashanah

September 30 – Yom Kippur



Did You Hear?

In an effort to curb the ever-expanding population of mosquitoes (including those that carry diseases such as Zika and dengue) scientists in California this summer released 20 million mosquitoes. Wait...they released more mosquitoes?

Yep. Here's why: the released mosquitoes are sterile male mosquitoes that, if all goes according to plan, will end up mating with wild female mosquitoes. The resulting eggs the females lay won't hatch, according to researchers. No word yet on whether the ambitious project was successful. •

CPSC Releases Report on Fire-Related Deaths, Injuries and Damages

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has released a new report detailing the terrible toll fires take annually on residents and property in the U.S.

In looking at consumer product-related fire losses that occurred in U.S. residential structure fires attended by the fire service, the CPSC's estimates were derived from data for 2012 through 2014, provided by the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Survey of Fire Departments for U.S. Fire Experience.

The fire and fire loss estimates in the report pertain to unintentional residential structure fires and civilian casualties and show that there were:

351,400 fires, 1,960 deaths, 11,860 injuries, and \$6.38 billion in property loss in 2012; and 359,400 fires, 2,290 deaths, 11,420 injuries, and \$6.22 billion in property loss in 2013; and 361,500 fires, 2,420 deaths, 11,120 injuries, and \$6.35 billion in property loss in 2014; and an estimated annual average of 357,400 fires, 2,220 deaths, 11,470 injuries, and \$6.32 billion in property loss over the three-year period 2012–2014.

For 2012 through 2014, the leading contributors to fire losses (as measured by heat sources and items first ignited) remained largely unchanged from what was reported for 2011–2013:

- Cooking equipment accounted for the largest percentage of fires at 43.9 percent of the average annual estimate.
- Heating and cooling equipment fires constituted the second largest share of total residential fires at 12.2 percent of the annual average estimate.

According to the American Red Cross, if you experience a fire, having working smoke alarms can nearly cut in half your risk of dying in that fire. So, please make sure your home has enough smoke detectors and also be sure to have working fire extinguishers on hand as well. Your life could depend on it. •



The White Horse of Uffington

"Aerial Photograph of White Horse And Uffington Hillfort" by Tyler Bell is licensed under CC BY 2.0



There are 56 identifiable hill figures (geoglyphs) scattered throughout the countryside of England. One of the oldest, and most mysterious, dates back over 3,000 years: the White Horse of Uffington.

The White Horse of Uffington is a unique, stylized representation of a horse etched high on a slope of lush vegetation in the region of Oxfordshire, near the village of Uffington. The image is comprised of a long, sleek back; thin, disjointed legs; a streaming tail; and a bird-like, beaked head. These parts are white since they are trenches dug into the earth that expose the white chalk bedrock underneath.

The purpose of the White Horse is unknown. The image is clearly visible only from an aerial vantage point or from a distant plateau. Some researchers speculate that it's the emblem of a local tribe that was marking its territory. Others believe worshippers of the sun god Belinos, who was associated with horses, carved out the figure.

One legend depicts the figure as a dragon, not a horse. The mythical beast was slain by St. George, its spilled blood creating a white chalk scar from which grass would not grow.

The White Horse has been tended to diligently since its creation. Otherwise it would have long since faded out of existence. Its shape has changed over the expanse of time due to soil slippage and numerous recuttings. Over the centuries, many "scouring festivals" have taken place to maintain the White Horse...with a few days of partying thrown in.

The White Horse of Uffington's purpose remains a mystery, but its survival is a testament to what it's meant to the people of the region. •

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When Shampoos Attack

The cosmetics industry is thriving in this nation and worldwide. Total revenues are expected to exceed \$265 billion for 2017. Consumers are all in when it comes to shampoos and other hair-care products, skin-care items, and makeup, but many lack awareness of some key points.

Currently, cosmetics manufacturers are under no legal obligation to report health problems associated with their products to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). They also are not required to conduct tests demonstrating product safety and effectiveness. In addition, cosmetic products can also be put on store shelves without undergoing a premarket approval process.

Bottom line, the cosmetics industry is largely unregulated, which means consumers' health may be jeopardized by harmful chemicals contained in their beauty products. To be fair, the FDA does restrict the use of certain ingredients, and they may intervene in the most egregious instances of misleading labels and poor quality, but it's largely up to consumers to report problems to get the FDA's attention.

Check product labels for the following potentially harmful ingredients:

Formaldehyde (preservative). A cancer link exists with topical applications on mice, which may or may not translate to humans. Most reputable agencies consider formaldehyde a carcinogen.

Sulfate. This ingredient is known to cause skin, eye, mouth, and lung irritation. Again, a cancer link has been found in laboratory mice, but no definitive link to cancer in humans has been established.

Parabens. Used to prevent bacterial growth, parabens are absorbed through the skin and mimic estrogen, which can throw off hormonal balance, possibly triggering breast cancer and reproductive issues. The FDA believes low-level usage is safe and therefore hasn't banned parabens. •

