

Electronic Newsletter

December 2013

[The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC](#)

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KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com



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We want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and Happy New Year. We have had another great year at the firm, doing important work for hundreds of valued clients. We are pleased to work with an increasing number of referring attorneys who trust us to handle complex cases for them and their injured clients. We value your trust and confidence and are committed to doing our best for you. Best wishes for 2014.

Sincerely,
Your friends at The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC



The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck Continues to Receive Positive Feedback for

KidsAgainst Distracted Driving



From time to time we get messages from parents and students who let us know they find our KADD resources to be helpful. One

parent sent us the following message last week:

My son just started driving and with dangerous winter weather here, I wanted to talk to him about some safety tips, such as distracted driving. We've been using the helpful information on your page (<http://www.kidsagainstdistracteddriving.com/resources.php>) quite a bit. Thanks!

During my search I also came across this article (<http://www.autobidmaster.com/articles/A-New-Driver-Guide-to-Auto-Safety/>). I found it to be very useful and convenient because there's a ton of resources all in one place. It talks about drinking and driving, defensive driving, texting and driving, and more. Even though he's a good kid, I always hear awful stories about things that happen nowadays. We both learned a lot!

I wanted to share it with you because I thought it would make a great addition to your page. Would you mind including it? I think other drivers will find the information helpful. It's spreading awareness like this that could end up saving a life! Let me know if you get a chance to add it :)

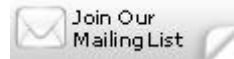
Thanks again,
Susan L. [abbreviated for privacy]

So yes, Susan, we will be glad to add this link and thanks again for contacting us!

Christmastime Driving Sees Increase in Distractions, Accidents



If you like our
Newsletter, please
forward to a friend
who could also
benefit from it!



Newsletter Archive

New to our mailing list? To read our prior newsletters, click [here](#).

Recall Central

To read about recent recalls and product safety news from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, click [here](#).

Get the latest recall information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [here](#).

The Dept. of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service regulate meat, poultry products and processed eggs. Check their recalls [here](#).

Click [here](#) for Food and Drug Administration recalls, market withdrawals and safety alerts.

For updates on the peanut products recall click [here](#).

NHTSA: Road Deaths Fell 4.2% This Year

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said U.S. traffic deaths fell 4.2% in the first six months of 2013, according to a preliminary estimate. The auto safety agency said 15,470 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes through June 30,

The [Washington Post](#) reported that "Unless you're expecting a gift certificate from an auto body shop for Christmas, it would be best to turn off the radio, shut down your cell phone and focus on driving. Your fellow drivers are stressed out and evil-minded this joyous holiday season". Almost a third of drivers say they become more aggressive on the roadway when holiday stress takes hold. According to new studies, traffic crashes spike during the final days leading up to Christmas as frenzied shoppers add their urgency to the daily commute. David Brown, a University of Alabama professor who has studied holiday traffic, analyzed 10 years of crash data in Alabama. The results drew a bull's-eye on the six days around Christmas. That hectic period registered 18% more crashes than the heaviest travel period of the year - Thanksgiving weekend - and 27% more than the highly lubricated New Year's Eve. This year, the worst traffic may fall on the Friday before Christmas. "You've got the shoppers, the commuting traffic, and you've got people leaving for the weekend. It's a mix of traffic that's kind of lethal," Brown said. Read [more](#).

Safety Advocates Call for Culture Change as More Drivers Admit to Distracted Driving



Safety experts and advocates say they're struggling to convince Americans to stop driving distracted, even as a growing body of evidence shows that drivers who insist on texting or talking on cell phones while behind the wheel pose deadly threats on the nation's roads. Survey data from State Farm

released earlier this month showed that a majority of American drivers admit to distracted driving. The problem, according to one expert, is that Americans overestimate their own ability to stay focused while driving and texting or talking on the phone. To many drivers, being responsible means using hands-free technology such as headsets or voice-activated systems. But some safety advocates argue that hands-free technology isn't risk-free and want public education campaigns to include that message. Currently, more than 40 states ban texting for drivers, and 12 states ban hand-held cell phone use. No state has banned all cell phone use in cars. But legislation may not be the solution to the problem, said Christopher Hart, a member of the NTSB. What's needed, he said, is a culture shift. "It's going to take very effective education, because so many people think it's quite ok to multitask and to drive and text at the same time," he said. Read [more](#).

Research: 1 in 4 Drivers Struggle to Stay Awake

More than one in four motorists (28%) reported being so tired they had a hard time keeping their eyes open while driving in the past month, according to new research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Motorists ages 19-24 were the most likely to report driving dangerously drowsy at 33%, while the oldest drivers (ages 75+) and the youngest (ages 16-18) were the least likely to report having done so in the previous month at 22% each. "Drowsy driving remains a significant threat to the motoring public, with many drivers underestimating the problem of driving while extremely tired, and overestimating their ability to deal with it," said Peter Kissinger, President and CEO of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. The study found that 95% of drivers believe it is somewhat or completely unacceptable to drive when they are so tired it is difficult to keep their eyes open. More than eight in ten (83%) believe that drowsy drivers pose a somewhat or very serious threat to their personal safety. Read [more](#).

MRSA Now Found in Communities, Not Just Hospitals

"A [USA TODAY](#) examination finds that MRSA infections, particularly outside of health care facilities, are much more common than government statistics suggest. They sicken hundreds of thousands of Americans each year in various ways, from minor skin boils to deadly pneumonia, claiming upward of 20,000 lives. The inability to detect or track cases is confounding efforts by public health officials to develop prevention strategies and keep the bacteria from threatening vast new swaths of the population." [Read more](#) about this troubling new development.

About Our Firm



At [The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck](#), justice is our mission. Our firm is well known and well respected for its ability to handle personal injury, wrongful death, and professional malpractice cases in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Call today or visit us on the web at www.stephenreck.com.

The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC

Proud to support the [North Stonington Education Foundation](#), [Little League Baseball](#), [Children International](#), [Heifer International](#), the [Avalonia Land Conservancy](#), and the [Conn. Chapter of the Special Olympics](#).

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down over the 16,150 fatalities in the first half of 2012. The fatality rate for the first six months of 2013 decreased to 1.06 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, down from 1.10 fatalities per 100 million miles in the first half of 2012. The fatality rate for the second quarter of 2013 decreased to 1.08 fatalities per 100 million miles, down from 1.12 fatalities in the second quarter of 2012. Last year, traffic deaths rose 4.4% to 33,780 - after seven years of declining. In 2005, 43,510 people were killed on U.S. roads. Last year's road deaths were the highest number since 2009 although road deaths overall are down 26% since 2005. Read [more](#).

Want More Distracted Driving News?



Check out the [Distracted Driving News from Safe Roads Alliance and the Distraction Advocate Network](#).

Don't Drive Distracted! It Kills



KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com



Proudly Serving Connecticut and Rhode Island

The trial attorneys at The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC represent individuals in all types of personal injury cases throughout the state of Connecticut and the state of Rhode Island, including, in Connecticut: New London County, New Haven County, Middlesex County, Hartford County, Tolland County, and Windham County; and in Rhode Island: Bristol County, Kent County, Newport County, Providence County, and Washington County.

Referrals Welcome

Have You Tried the Wired Bean Cafe Yet?

North Stonington's Coolest Gathering Spot



The [Wired Bean Cafe](#), located in the front of our building next to the Wellness Center, serves coffee, tea, espresso, cappuccino, muffins, cookies, pies, soups, sandwiches, and more. Free wifi, comfortable seating, and a friendly staff. If you haven't tried them yet, go soon!

Remember we are here if you need a referral to an attorney in a different area of law.

