

ACCIDENTATIORNEYS.

Prevent Accidents Before They Happen Get Help When They Do

At AccidentAttorneys.org, we are committed to helping you stay safe and avoid car accidents. We asked our accident attorneys what they've learned, then created these safety tips for you.

Stay Safe

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Know Thy Self

Avoid Distracted Driving

Distractions have always been a common cause of car accidents, but today the problem is worse than ever. One of the most painful things about losing someone to distracted driving is knowing that it didn't have to happen. Taking your eyes off the road for a second is all it takes to wind up in a terrible crash. According to Distraction.gov, 3,328 people were killed and about 421,000 were injured in accidents involving distracted driving, in 2012. One survey found that about 95% of drivers believe that texting while driving is a serious threat to their safety, but 35% of the same



respondents say they do it anyway. Distractions come in many forms, not just device use. You can minimize distractions several ways:

- If your phone has Driving Mode, use it.
- Turn off electronic devices and put them away so you are not tempted to use them.
- If you plan to listen to an MP3 player while you drive, get it set up and started before you go, so you are not playing with it while you drive.
- If you are driving a rental car or new vehicle, familiarize yourself with the controls, gauges and features before hitting the road.
- Look at your maps and know your route before you start driving. Have a passenger help with directions while you drive.
- Adjust your seat and mirrors, and make other adjustments for comfort such as setting the heater or AC, before you start driving or while you are stopped.
- Make sure your kids are strapped in and situated before you drive. If something comes up that they need help with, wait until you can pull over.
- Do not try to eat while you drive. Have a snack before you go, and if you are on a long drive take the time to stop and eat along the way.

These Distracted Driving Safety Tips are brought to you by the law firm of Walkup, Melodia, Kelly & Schoenberger.

The <u>San Jose Accident Attorneys</u> of Walkup, Melodia, Kelly & Schoenberger, represent injured victims of all types of car accidents in California and throughout the West. We represent people who have been seriously injured, including victims involved in accidents caused by distracted driving. We are trial attorneys. When we take on an accident case, we expect to invest thousands of dollars' worth of time preparing for full jury trial. Many of the cases we handle settle fairly out of court, but we prepare each case for the long haul, so that you can receive the full compensation you deserve, even if a favorable settlement agreement cannot be reached.

To win your car accident case, we must be able to paint a meaningful and accurate picture for the jury. <u>Our firm</u> has been given an AV Preeminent® rating by our peers and we have been selected by our peers as one of the Best Law Firms®. We have received many other awards and accolades, but for us, the single highest honor we can receive is the knowledge that we have achieved a good result for our client.

Avoid All Types of Impaired Driving

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly one-third of all fatal traffic accidents, in 2010, involved an alcohol-impaired driver. We all know that drunk driving is dangerous, but alcohol is just one impairment that drivers need to avoid. Prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications, and recreational drugs can be just as dangerous as alcohol, or worse. Even more deceptive, sleep deprivation and fatigue cause impairment, while clouding your judgment to the point that you do not realize your are impaired.



- If you plan on drinking, have a designated driver.
- Find out about services in your area that give free cab rides or tows to people who have been drinking.
- Read the instructions and warnings on your OTC medications to find out if they could make you drowsy or impair your ability to drive.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist if it is safe to drive on your prescriptions medications, and if not, how long you need to wait to drive after taking them.
- If you take medication to help you sleep, talk to your doctor about your dose and
 when it should wear off in the morning. It has been recently discovered that some
 sleeping medications take longer to process from the body than previously
 thought.
- Do not drive when you are sleep-deprived, even if you do not feel drowsy.
- If you get sleepy while driving, pull over and take a nap in a parking lot or rest area.

These tips on avoiding impaired driving are brought to you by Law Office of Maro Burunsuzyan, PLC.

The Law Office of Maro Burunsuzyan, PLC, has been standing up for California injury victims since 1994. Our Lancaster accident attorneys understand that just compensation for your injuries or the loss of a loved one must go beyond your immediate needs and losses. You need compensation that will serve you and your family in the years to come, covering the long-term needs and expenses created by your car accident.

Founding attorney, Maro Burunsuzyan, has been practicing law in California for since 1994, and has recovered millions of dollars on behalf of his clients. Ms. Burunsuzyan was nominated as Trial Attorney of the Year in 2004 and has been named a Super Lawyer by Los Angeles Magazine. She was also featured as one of the Top 50 Female Lawyers in Southern California in 2011.



Know the Conditions

Be Prepared for the Weather

Unexpected weather conditions can pose a host of problems including accidents, getting stranded, or simply a long, stressful drive. If you know how to handle hazardous weather, you can minimize your chance of being involved in an accident. Always have an emergency kit in your car just in case you do get stranded.

- Check the weather before you get out on the road. If there is an advisement to stay off the roads, heed it, even if you think you have time to get home before the weather hits. Conditions can become impassable much more quickly than meteorologists predict.
- During any kind of bad weather, slow down and maintain greater than normal distance between yourself and other vehicles.
- Brake and accelerate gently, not suddenly, as the road may be slick.
- Use your headlights even if you don't need them. They help other drivers see you
 when visibility is reduced. Remember that even if you can see just fine, other
 drivers may have issues which reduce their ability to see.
- Do not try to drive through standing water, even if it looks shallow enough to cross. One foot of moving water can sweep away most cars, and two feet of standing water can float them.
- Be cautious if you drive through puddles. They can cause your car to hydroplane.
- In cooler months, watch out for black ice even if the road appears dry.
- Bridges and overpasses freeze more quickly than the rest of the road.
- Heat makes flawed tires more likely to blowout. Check your tire pressure and inspect your tires regularly, and be especially vigilant during hot weather.
- High wind can blow you off the road or out of your lane. Even if you are able to maintain your course, other vehicles may be more susceptible to the wind and can be blown into you.
- When fog, snow, rain, spray off of wet roads, or smoke cause reduced visibility
 use your low beams. High beams will be reflected right back in your eyes making
 visibility even worse.

These bad weather driving tips are brought to you by Harris Kuhn Law Firm, LLP.

Harris Kuhn Law Firm, LLP, represents victims of serious personal injury and the families of wrongful death victims. Our <u>Omaha accident attorneys</u> are deeply committed to helping those who have been injured or lost a loved one as a result of someone else's negligence, a defective product, or malpractice. We provide thoughtful, competent and personal consideration of your legal concerns. Learn more about legal issues you may face by following us on <u>Facebook</u> and watching our educational videos on <u>YouTube</u>.

Attorney James E. Harris focuses his practice on serving injury victims and their families. He has experience with severe and catastrophic injuries including brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputations, and severe burns, and knows how to maximize compensation in these sensitive and serious cases.

Be On the Look Out - Optimize Visibility

If you have ever been caught in the weather, only to have your windshield wipers fail, you know how dangerous and scary a visibility problem can be. It is easy to forget about your wipers or headlights when you aren't using them, but when you need them and find them lacking it can become an emergency, or worse.



- Keep your windshield, rear window, side windows, and your mirrors clean.
- Make sure your mirrors are properly adjusted before you start driving.
- Check your windshield wipers on a regular basis to make sure they work well and are in good condition. Inspect them visually for cracks and wear. If you haven't had to use them in a while, give them a test run even if they look fine. They could be dried out and leave streaks if it rains or snow while you are on the road.
- Your defroster also needs to be in good working condition. Fogging inside can be
 just as bad as rain and snow on the outside. In a snowstorm, your defroster helps
 to keep your windshield from icing up and rendering wipers useless.
- Check that both headlights are working and that both the high and low beams work properly. Headlights need to be properly aimed. If you cannot adjust them yourself, get help from a professional.
- Make sure your headlights are clean and free from oxidation.
- When clearing snow from your vehicle, clear the entire hood and the roof, not just the windshield and windows. It may not be blocking your sight when you get in your car, but it can land on the windshield when you get up to speed.

These auto visibility tips are brought to you by the law firm of <u>Langdale Vallotton, LLP</u>. Established in 1972, they serve clients through the state of Georgia.

Langdale Vallotton has helped clients recover over \$250 million through personal injury claims. This award winning firm has helped victims injured in automobile, motorcycle, and trucking accidents, as well as, cases related to defective products, unsafe premises, medical malpractice, and wrongful death.

We are proud of the reputation for legal excellence that we have earned in the State of Georgia. We know that our reputation is earned every day, with each matter we handle.

For more information visit: http://langdalevallotton.com/personal-injury-and-wrongful-death/

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Be a Courteous and Defensive Driver

Courteous and defensive drivers share the most important trait for safe driving - they pay attention to what is going on around them when they are on the road. By driving courteously and defensively you can minimize your chance of causing or getting caught up in an accident. Even though negligent drivers can be held responsible for the injuries they cause, you are much better off if you can avoid getting hurt in the first place.



- Don't follow too closely. Stay at least three or four seconds behind the vehicle in front of you.
- If someone is following you too closely, tap your brakes lightly to flash your taillights. Change lanes, carefully slow down and encourage them to pass, or pull over to let them pass if you can do so safely.
- Stay out of other vehicles' blind spots.
- Do not drive directly alongside another vehicle.
- Keep your focus on the horizon, not just the car in front of you, so you can see problems coming well ahead of time.
- Stay in one lane as much as possible.
- Stay in the middle or right-hand lane when you are not passing, and only pass on the left.
- At intersections, look before you go, even when you have a green light or it is your turn. Do not count on other drivers to obey traffic signals.
- Signal well before turning or changing lanes. In most situations you should start signaling at least 100 feet in advance.
- Don't forget to turn your turn signal off if it does not click off on its own.
- Watch for drivers who change lanes without signaling or swerve in and out of lanes unsafely.
- Don't use your high beams when there is oncoming traffic or when you are behind another vehicle.
- If you are being blinded by an oncoming car, shift your gaze toward the right edge of your lane until the car passes.

These defensive driving tips are brought to you by the Philadelphia law firm of Huber & Palsir, LLC.

<u>Huber & Palsir, LLC</u> focuses solely on serving injury victims and their families. Our <u>Philadelphia car accident</u> <u>attorneys</u> have secured numerous six and seven figure verdicts and settlements on behalf of our clients. We believe that each client deserves personal attention and we promise to treat you with the respect and compassion you need and deserve during this difficult time. Keep up on the latest legal news by following us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Google+</u>.

We provide comprehensive legal representation for injury victims, so you do not need to hire multiple attorneys or firms to handle separate claims which may arise from your case. And, we can help you with issues related to your injuries, such as dealing with creditors because you have been out of work, and getting the proper medical diagnosis and treatment when your insurance company is resistant.

Be Alert If You Break Down

Car trouble is not just inconvenient, it can put you in real danger. Even if you are not in a bad part of town, you must be wary of strangers offering help. During very hot and very cold weather, being stranded for a long time can be deadly. And, of course, the biggest threat is being struck by another vehicle while you wait for help or work on your vehicle by the side of the road.



If you break down:

- Pull over on the right-hand side of the road and as far from the lane of traffic as you can on the shoulder.
- If you are on a highway, take an exit if possible.
- Turn on your hazard lights, and place reflective triangles or flares behind your vehicle.
- In most cases, you should stay in your vehicle with the doors locked while you wait for help to arrive.
- If your cell phone does not have a signal, try text messaging.
- If you are unable to make a call for help, raise your hood and tie a white cloth to your door handle or antenna to let authorities and passersby know you need assistance.
- If someone approaches to talk to you, only roll your window down far enough to talk. Ask them to call the police or your roadside assistance service.
- If your vehicle is in or very close to the lane of traffic, carefully get out and wait away from traffic.
- Do not try to cross multiple lanes of traffic on a busy highway.
- In most cases you should not try to walk to a phone, but use common sense. If you are in an area with emergency call boxes, and can get to one safely, that may be better than waiting for law enforcement to notice you. If you are a member of a roadside assistance service, let the operator know which one.

These auto safety tips are brought to you by the Dan Pruitt Injury Law Firm of South Carolina.

<u>Dan Pruitt Injury Law Firm</u> focuses exclusively on serving personal injury victims and the loved ones of those who been killed by someone else's negligence in South Carolina. <u>Greenville accident attorney</u>, Dan Pruitt, has been practicing law since 1993. He is dedicated to helping accident victims and their families, and understands the hardships you are facing. Mr. Pruitt is happy to meet with clients in their home, hospital rooms, or over the phone when circumstances make traveling to his office unreasonable.

We treat each of our clients and their families with dignity and compassion. Mr. Pruitt is known for fighting aggressively for his clients and has a proven track record of success in securing substantial verdicts and settlements on their behalves. Learn more about personal injury law and your rights when you follow us on Google+.



Know Your Car

Check Your Tires

Having seen the aftermath of a tire blowout accident, and how it can destroy lives, we cannot overemphasize the importance of checking your tires. Most of us rarely think about the condition of our tires unless there is an obvious problem, like a very low tire or visible tread wear, but checking your tires on a regular basis is quick and easy, and it could save your life.



- Check your tire pressure at least once a month and before a long trip. Proper tire pressure is marked on the tire. Over-inflation and under-inflation can lead to tire failure or a blowout. It will also impact handling and your gas mileage.
- When you check the pressure, take look at the tread, too, looking for any damage or uneven wear.
- Check for bulges and cuts in the sidewalls.
- Check your tread depth. Using a Lincoln penny, insert the penny head-first into the tread. If it does not cover all of Lincoln's head, it is time to replace your tires.
- Have your tires rotated and balanced every 5,000 miles.
- Don't forget to check your spare when you check your other tires. If your spare is six years old or older it needs to be replaced, even if it looks great.

These Tire Safety Tips are brought to you by the law firm of Hastings, Cohan, and Walsh, LLP.

We take a unique approach to personal injury representation. We are focused on helping you make the best possible physical recovery and maximizing your monetary compensation. We arm our clients with free books, authored by our attorneys, full of information and advice to help you reach both of these ends. Our <u>Danbury accident attorneys</u> have over 70 years of combined experience helping injury victims, and a proven track record of success. We represent victims in all types of personal injury claims, as well as loved ones of wrongful death victims. Our firm handles car accident cases on a contingency fee basis, and we advance the costs. We only receive a fee if we win money for you, and if we do not, we absorb the expenses and you owe us nothing. Our attorneys are always looking for new ways to help our clients. For more safety tips and Connecticut legal news, you can follow us on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and find us on <u>Google +</u>.

Attorney Richard P, Hastings is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, a group in which membership is limited to trial attorneys who have won million dollar verdicts or settlements on behalf of their clients. Less than 1% of all attorneys in the U.S. have achieved membership. He has taught lawyers throughout the country how to maximize the compensation they recover for their clients. Mr. Hastings has been recognized by his peers as a Connecticut Super Lawyer, an award that is limited to only 5% of attorneys in the state. He has an AV Rating with Martindale-Hubbell, it is the highest rating in their peer-review system.

Check Your Fluids

You may not realize it, but checking your fluids can do more than save your car, it can save your life. Overheating, due to low coolant can put you in a dangerous situation on the side of the road. If the oil runs low your engine can seize while you are on the highway, leading to a deadly crash. Transmission fluid keeps your gears shifting smoothly, and without it you can slip out of gear. Even running low on something as seemingly minor as windshield washer fluid can cause an accident if your windshield gets clouded from dust and just a little moisture, and you cannot douse it to regain visibility guickly.



- Check your oil weekly, and have it changed every 3,000 to 5,000 miles.
- Check your transmission fluid monthly.
- Coolant/antifreeze should be checked at least twice a year before winter and before summer weather begin. Do not open your radiator cap while the engine is hot
- Windshield washer fluid should be checked weekly or when you fill up your gas tank
- Power steering and brake fluid should be checked at least twice a year and anytime you feel softness in your brakes or your power steering starts making noise.
- Before topping off any fluid, check your owner's manual to find out which fluids are right for your specific vehicle.

These tips on the importance of checking your car's fluids are brought to you by Jackson & Tucker, P.C.

Since 1989, Steve Jackson and Josh Tucker have operated under the belief that everyone is entitled to quality representation and the right to pursue legal remedies, despite the size and financial strength of adversaries, such as large insurance companies.

We specialize in complex civil litigation matters; primarily, cases involving medical malpractice, brain injuries, pharmaceutical drug injuries, and catastrophic physical injuries.

The Birmingham accident attorneys of Jackson & Tucker, P.C., have helped thousands of clients in Alabama and throughout the South recover maximum compensation for their injuries.

You can follow Jackson & Tucker, P.C. on Facebook, Google+, or find them on the Better Business Bureau.

Check Your Brakes

Good brakes are your car's most vital safety feature. Brake failure can end in a very serious or fatal accident, and the final seconds or moments before the crash are terrifying. A defective brake system can be completely beyond your control, but you can minimize your risk of brake failure by maintaining your brakes, and if you know the signs of a brake problem, you may even be able to catch defective brakes before they fail. Timely maintenance, such as changing the pads when needed, may not only help prevent an accident, it can prevent the need for more costly repairs.



It is a good idea to have your brakes inspected every six months, or at the intervals recommended in your owner's manual. Some of the major chains offer free brake inspections, so all it costs you is a little bit of time. In between regular check-ups, have your brakes checked by a professional if:

- They squeal, squeak, grind or groan
- Your car pulls to the left or right when braking
- The brake pedal feels squishy, spongy, soft, or sinks to the floor
- Your brake pedal is overly stiff
- Your brakes are touchy or overly sensitive
- Your car vibrates or shakes when your apply the brakes
- A brake warning light comes on

Don't forget to check occasionally and make sure your brake lights are working. If your brake lights are faulty, it can cause you to get rear-ended.

These automobile brake safety tips are brought to you by the The Almaraz Law Firm PLLC.

The Almaraz Law Firm PLLC has represented many victims of serious injury throughout the State of Texas, across the United States.

We aggressively pursue claims on behalf of our clients, including those injured or killed in car wrecks, trucking accidents, construction site accidents, workplace negligence, oilfield and refinery workers, seamen, offshore workers, longshoremen and harbor workers, those injured by defective products, patients injured by negligent healthcare providers, malpractice, those injured in slip and falls, victims of inadequate security, and virtually every other type of injury that can occur.

Check Your Warning Lights and Gauges

You should never ignore a warning light or the information you see on your gauges, but do not rely solely on these indicators. Sensors and gauges can malfunction or fail, and they are not designed to take the place of checking your fluids and tire pressure or having your vehicle serviced at the proper times. Too many drivers rely on warning lights to let them know that it is time for maintenance, but warning lights are meant to indicate serious problems, not to alert you to maintenance intervals.



For instance, tire pressure monitoring systems (TPMS) required in newer vehicles are only required to notify you when a tire is 25% underinflated or worse. This is way past the danger zone, but a survey by the Rubber Manufacturer's Association (RMA) found that 40% of respondents will only check their tire pressure if the TPMS light comes on. While you cannot rely on warning lights to let you know when your car needs serviced, you should never ignore one when it comes on either.

- Low oil warning Pull over immediately, as soon as you can safely do so. Low oil can cause serious engine damage and can cause the engine to seize.
- Check engine light If the light comes on and stays on, schedule an appointment
 to have your vehicle checked out. If the light is flashing, you need to pull over as
 soon as possible. Your catalytic converter could be overheating and that can
 cause your vehicle to catch on fire.
- Low tire pressure This light comes on when you have a dangerously low tire.
 Pull over in a safe spot or get to a service station and check your tire pressure.
 Drive carefully until you have checked it. You may be subject to blowout.
- Charging system warning Your battery is dying. You have 15 to 30 minutes before your engine dies, and less than that if you are using your headlights.
- Brake light Your brake fluid is getting low. Gently apply the brakes and pull over
 if possible. You may need to pump the brakes to make them work. Depending on
 how rapidly you are losing fluid you may be able to drive to a gas station.
- Temperature warning You are overheating. Pull over as soon as you can safely do so and turn off the engine. You may be able to buy yourself some driving time by turning off the air conditioner and running the heater full blast.

These auto safety tips are brought to you by Friedman Law Offices, P.C., L.L.O.

<u>Friedman Law Offices, P.C., L.L.O.</u> was founded in 1962. Over the years we have grown into one of the largest and most successful law firms in Nebraska, but we refuse to sacrifice the personal touch your normally expect from a small firm. Our <u>Lincoln Accident Attorneys</u> and our entire staff take pride in the fact that we have to experience and resources to take on powerful opponents and win, while still treating each client with compassion and personal attention. Please, keep in touch and informed by following us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

Check Your Owners Manual for Airbag Safety

Airbags can save your life in a crash, but they are not gentle protection. At best, an airbag is the lesser of two evils. At worst the airbag itself causes injuries more severe than the accident would have caused without it, and in some cases airbags have killed the people they were meant to protect. Overall, airbags reduce injuries and save lives, but you need to know how to use them safely to prevent unnecessary injuries. Airbags are not safe for children under 13 and pose a danger to small drivers who are unable sit at least 10 inches away from the steering wheel.

- Sit back as far as possible from the airbag, at least 10 inches from the steering wheel and dashboard.
- Children 12 and under should not sit in front of an airbag. It is recommended that
 children sit in the back seat and in some places it is the law. If you must place a
 child in the front seat, make sure the airbag is turned off.
- If your vehicle is not equipped with an ON/OFF switch for the airbags and you regularly transport a child in the front seat, consider having one installed.
- Rear-facing car seats absolutely must not be placed in front of an airbag.
- Some side air bags pose a danger to children.
- If your steering wheel tilts, point it at your chest, not your chin or face.
- Airbags are meant to be used in conjunction with seatbelts, not alone. Wear your seatbelt properly. Not only will it provide protection from the crash, it can minimize injuries from the airbag.
- Airbags cannot be reused after they have been deployed. Have it replaced by an authorized repair center right away.
- When you turn on your car, the airbag light should come on briefly, then go off. If
 it does not come on at all, comes on and stays on, or stays on flashing, get it
 checked out right away.
- Counterfeit airbags are a big problem and they are very dangerous. If you have had your airbags replaced at a repair shop that is not part of a new car dealership, or bought your car used, consider having it checked. You can call your auto manufacturer to find out where to get it inspected.
- Always read your owner's manual and use a certified mechanic for regular maintenance.

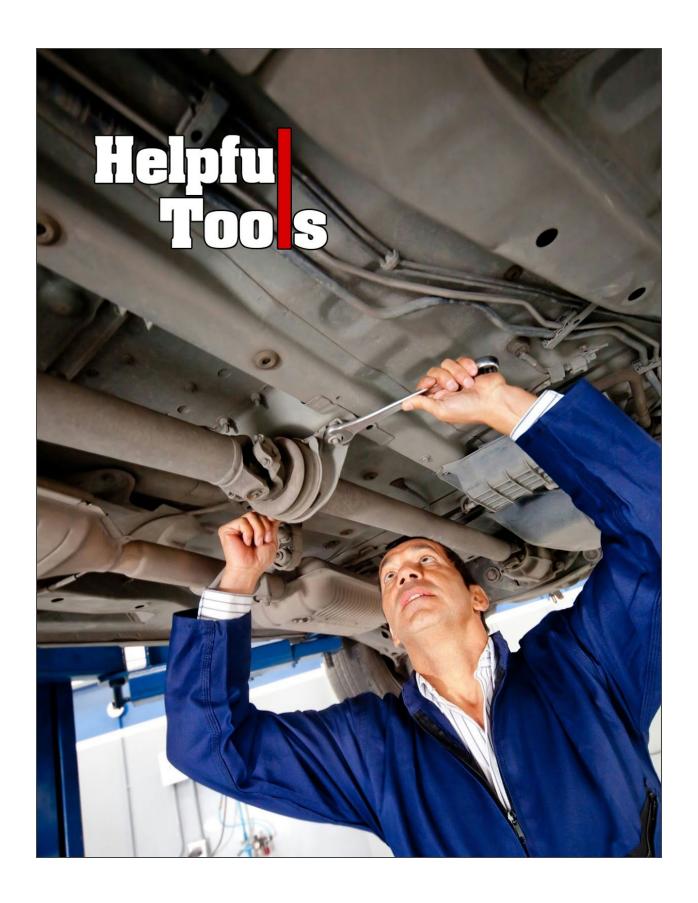
These airbag safety tips are brought to you by Guerra Law Group, PLLC.

At Guerra Law Group, P.L.L.C., we are committed to fighting to achieve justice on your behalf for those who have been hurt or injured by negligent parties or irresponsible companies and corporations. When you feel powerless to get the compensation that you are entitled to, we can help.

We have multiple office locations in Texas and Mexico, and our broad presence is felt.

Our attorneys, Carlos Guerra and David Lumber, take the time to understand your story and what is important to you.

To arrange a free initial consultation to discuss your injury visit <u>Guerra Law Group, PLLC online</u>, on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>, or <u>Google+</u>.



Helpful Tools

Online Resources

Accident Information

- Accident Attorneys
- Car Accident Claims

Owner's Manuals

- Edmunds Vehicle Owner's Manuals
- Just Give Me the Damn Manual

Safety Ratings

- Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Ratings
- Motor Trend Safety Ratings
- <u>U.S. Department of Transportation Safety Ratings</u>

Safety Guides

- Car Seat Safety Guide
- How to Stay Safe After an Accident
- Kids and Cars Safety Guide
- Teen and Parent Driving Agreement

General Car Safety Information

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- SafeCar.gov

Safety Checklist

Use this helpful checklist to inspect your vehicle before driving.

1	Item to Review			
	Are you sober?			
	Are you awake and alert?			
	Do the tires have the correct amount of air?			
	Do you have enough oil and coolant?			
	Is your license plate secure and up-to-date?			
	Are the headlights and taillights lights working?			
	Are the turn signals working?			
	Are the mirrors in the right position?			
	Are the breaks working?			
	Are there any warning lights displaying on your dashboard?			
	Is your seat secure and in a good position?			
	Is the windshield intact, with no major cracks?			
	Do you have your drivers license?			
	Do you have a copy of your registration?			
	Do you have a copy of your drivers insurance?			
	Do you have a copy of the <u>Stay Safe Steps</u> in your glovebox?			
	Is your seatbelt on and in good working order?			
	Is your cell phone in driving mode, on silent, turned off or put away?			

Maintenance Notes

Use this page to record the history of your car maintenance.

Date	Service Provider	Phone	Notes

