

CLANCY & DIAZ, LLP
PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

Drivers Just Won't Stop Speeding

Law enforcement agencies across the U.S. say increased speeding is leading to more accidents — about 42,000 people died in motor vehicle accidents in 2020, up 8% from the year before, despite the fact that the pandemic meant fewer motorists were on the road.

Here in the Golden State, the California Highway Patrol issued 2,311 citations a month into the first quarter of 2021 to motorists allegedly driving 100 mph or faster, a figure much higher than the 1,326 monthly average a year earlier.

These numbers are particularly concerning because California is in peak summer driving season and traffic has just about returned to pre-pandemic levels.

California is not alone. From Minnesota to Colorado to Washington, D.C., officials say they are “terrified” by the increase in fatal speeding-related accidents despite an overall decrease in crashes.

Drivers are more likely to lose control at faster speeds, officials say, resulting in high-impact crashes, severe personal and bodily injuries, and fatalities.

3 tips every driver should know

A few pointers from experts to avoid speeding include:

- **Making smart choices while planning your trip.** When possible, avoid high-congestion areas, rush-hour traffic, and other problematic

routes. You can also leave a little sooner than usual, giving yourself extra time to reach your destination.

- **Using technology, such as cruise control, to your benefit.** If you know you have a hard time obeying the speed limit, consider using your vehicle's cruise control to set your speed. Also, a dash cam can come in handy if you are in an accident caused by another driver.
- **Remaining calm behind the wheel.** In a world where you see “road rage” incidents on a regular basis and think to yourself,

“how stupid was that?” — don't put yourself in a position where someone else is thinking the same about you. It can cost you your health, money, freedom, and potentially much more. Take a few deep breaths when something unexpected happens. Stay in control and don't lose your temper.

If you or someone you love has been injured in an accident caused by speeding, learn your legal rights and options by contacting our law firm in Walnut Creek and Antioch.

Lyft Rolls Out New E-bike in San Francisco

Lyft operates rental bicycle programs in 9 U.S. cities, including San Francisco.

Here, the program is called Bay Wheels. Now, Lyft has plans to expand their bikeshare to other communities — and they'll be doing it with an updated model of their e-bikes.

San Francisco is the first community to get to use the improved model, which is painted bright white for higher visibility. The updated model features improved durability, battery life, lower center of gravity, a coat of reflective paint, and a saddle that better accommodates women and smaller riders.

There's no gear shift either — all that is

done automatically by the bike. There's a digital console on the handlebars that gives information about speed limits and other local road rules. Once it's brought up to full capacity, Lyft plans to eventually offer 7,000 Lyft e-bikes in San Francisco at 546 Bay Wheel stations.

The updated Lyft bicycles were launched in San Francisco on June 6. They're here for a trial, and the big picture plan is to replace older electronic bikes (e-bikes) that are no longer in rideable shape with the newer model.

Sharing the road with bikeshares

As more cyclists hit the streets on Bay Wheels, the chance for accidents increases.

We've seen this happen in California. Our state is one of the most bike-friendly in the country. Yet, in 2020, the number of bicycle fatalities hit a 25-year high, according to California Healthline. The rise in bikeshares — like Bluebikes, Indigo, Ford GoBikes, and Lyft, among others — is contributing to this spike.

A little closer to home the situation is

serious. Over four years, there were more than 2,800 bicycle collisions in San Francisco County and 34 deaths.

Bikeshares typically mean more first-time and new bicyclists are hitting the streets and might be unaware of the rules of sharing the road.

As more bikes hit the streets, riders are encouraged to:

- Wear a helmet.
- Wear reflective material to be more easily visible to cars and trucks.
- Keep your hands on the bike.
- Know and use your signals.
 - **Left turn:** Fully extend your left arm out to the side.
 - **Right turn:** Fully extend your right arm out to the side or bend your left arm straight up at the elbow with your hand flat.
 - **Slowing or stopping:** Extend your left arm out and bend it down at the elbow.

- Limit distractions.
- Ride as if you are in a car.
- Ride with the flow of traffic.

If you were injured or a loved one died in a bicycle accident, contact the legal team at Clancy & Diaz right away. Our attorneys can protect your rights and fight to secure the compensation you're entitled to.



Crash Test Standards Favor Men

You've probably seen car advertisements that mention a 5-Star Safety Rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA),

but did you know that the rating is based on crash tests that primarily use a dummy the size of an average American male (5-foot-9, 170 pounds)?

Recent research by the University of Virginia shows that women are about 20% more likely to die and 73% more likely to be severely injured in a similar car accident when compared to men, and the discrepancy could be linked to car safety features that are built for men instead of women.

Different injuries for different body types

The safety standards used by the NHTSA do not apply to anyone who isn't the same size as the average American male driver, and that includes women as well as men who are taller, shorter, heavier, or lighter.

Women, even those who are 5-foot-9 and 170 pounds, can suffer more serious injuries in a crash than a man of the same size due to differences in their bone density and muscle mass, which are variables that should be considered when performing crash tests.

For instance, women are more susceptible to whiplash and other neck injuries because

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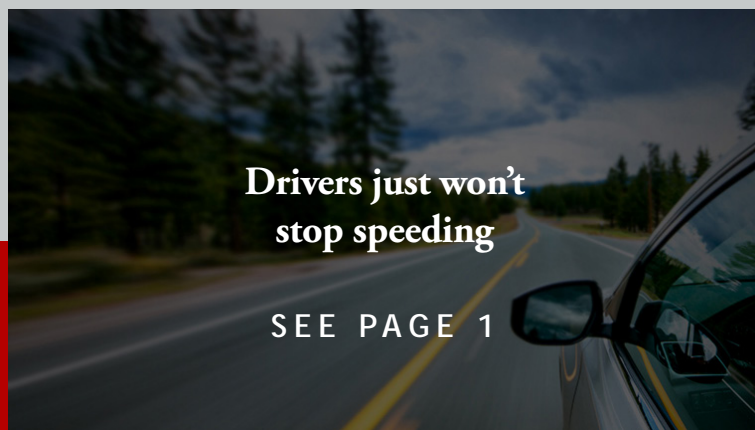
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they typically have less muscle mass in their necks than men, even when both are at the same level of fitness. Where they sit in relation to the steering wheel, how they sit, and many other factors play a role in the severity of injuries that women get, yet experts say safety ratings continue to ignore these important differences.

It's worth remembering that no matter what vehicle safety standards the government uses, car manufacturers should ensure their vehicles are safe to use for everyone. If your vehicle came with a flawed design that caused or contributed to your injuries, you have recourse under the law.

To find out how our law firm can help

you, contact us to schedule a free consultation. We have offices in Walnut Creek and Antioch, and we represent clients throughout the East Bay.