

Facial Injuries Impact Car Accident Victims in Many Ways

Car accidents happen every day in the Bay Area and throughout California, leaving people seriously hurt. Many victims suffer facial injuries that are painful and traumatic. These injuries are very common – one study found that more than half of car crash victims sustain some type of facial trauma.

Common Types of Facial Trauma

Facial injuries can happen in different ways during a collision. Broken glass or debris can strike the face. A person's head could hit the steering wheel or another hard surface. A person not wearing a seatbelt could be ejected from the car onto the ground. Or a person's face could be struck when an airbag is deployed.

Common types of facial injuries suffered in accidents include:

- **Cuts and lacerations** - These can result in disfigurement, such as permanent scarring, and cause a drastic change in appearance.
- **Broken bones** - There are 14 bones in the face, such as those in the nose, around the eyes, above the cheeks, and in the jaw. Fractures can be painful and may require surgery. While your teeth are not bones, it's also common for crash victims to chip or break a tooth or have a tooth get knocked out from the impact of the collision, which may result in you needing expensive dental surgery.

- **Burns** - If there was a fire in your accident, you could suffer burns to facial tissue, resulting in scarring and disfigurement. Skin grafts and other types of reconstructive surgery may be needed.
- **Eye injuries** - If the eyes are struck by debris, a victim may experience partial or total blindness. This can affect a victim's ability to drive or work in the future.

Facial injuries in a crash can have a physical, emotional, and financial impact. Injuries can be painful and require extensive medical treatment. Disfigurement can lead to a loss of self-esteem and other emotional difficulties. Medical expenses, including reconstructive surgery, can become overwhelming.

If you suffered a facial injury in a car accident caused by a negligent driver, you deserve financial compensation for your injuries. At Clancy & Diaz, LLP, our personal injury attorneys know how to build strong cases and fight to get the results our clients need.

To learn more, contact our law firm in Walnut Creek, CA today for a free consultation.



Study: Red-Light Runners Cause the Most Deaths in California

California was recently ranked as the No. 1 state in the nation for car accidents caused by motorists who run red lights.

According to a new study by the National Coalition for Safer Roads which examined crash data from 2019, no other state had more reports of crashes caused by red-light runners than California, which had nearly 130 fatal accidents in 2019 involving a driver who ran through a red light. Nationwide, 840 people died in car accidents caused by motorists who didn't stop when the light was red.

Tragically, more than half of the reported deaths from accidents caused by red-light runners are pedestrians, cyclists, and passengers of other vehicles.

The Profile of a Red-Light Runner

Red-light running accidents typically happen at intersections and are among the most avoidable types of crashes there are. An attentive driver doesn't speed up to beat a yellow light or ignore a red traffic signal, so a driver who runs a red light is clearly being negligent.

In a comprehensive national survey of red-light runners by AAA that took place in 1999, specific characteristics about these drivers were revealed.

Here are some of the key findings:

- Most red-light runners are young males without children who are driving alone.
- Over 50% of Californians who took the survey confessed to running at least one red light.
- Of those motorists in California, 14% admitted they ran a red light within the last 10 traffic lights they encountered.

Whether another driver runs a red light because they're "in a rush" or they're simply being reckless (speeding, texting, driving under the influence, etc.), it's not an excuse to fly through an intersection and put others on the road at risk of a bad car accident.

If you were injured or a loved one died in a crash caused by a red-light runner, you should talk to an attorney to get a clear understanding of your legal rights and options. To see how the car accident attorneys at our law firm can help, contact us to arrange a free consultation. There are no obligations to hire us, and we take cases on contingency. That means there's no upfront money required, and you pay no legal fees unless we make a financial recovery in your case (e.g., a negotiated settlement or court judgment). Call us today to find out more.



California Beefs Up Efforts To Protect Pedestrians

The 10-year trend of increasing fatal pedestrian accidents is now skyrocketing. In the first quarter of 2021, the national deadly pedestrian accident rate reportedly shot up by more than 20%.

If you live in California, you may have already seen the signs or been personally affected by this worrisome trend. There are hundreds of pedestrian deaths in California every year. At 2.5 deaths per 100,000 people, California has the fifth-highest fatal pedestrian accident rate in the U.S.

There were 20 pedestrian fatalities in Contra Costa County in 2019, according to the latest U.S. Department of Transportation numbers. In the last several years, fatal pedestrian accidents in the Northeast Bay Area were reported in Antioch, Bay Point, Concord, Lafayette, Martinez, Pacheco, Pittsburg, and Pleasant Hill.

Pedestrian Accidents in California

In 2008, the state's Complete Streets Act was signed into law. It requires cities and counties to consider all users of city-and county-owned roads when they update their general transportation plans. California's Department of Transportation signed on soon after, pledging to consider motorists as well as other users when designing, reconstructing, and building roadways.

More than 100 Complete Street policies have been adopted by large municipalities like Los Angeles and small towns in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Complete Street plans seek to address situations that lead to pedestrian, bicycle, and other accidents between vehicles and non-motorists. Studies point to multiple factors driving the hike in pedestrian deaths. The causes range from changes in new motor vehicle designs to 1950s engineering.

Proposed roadway improvements include lowering the speed limit; narrower travel lanes that naturally slow traffic; signalized crosswalks; decreasing the distance between crosswalks and intersections; and eliminating right turn "slip" lanes.

CLANCY & DIAZ, LLP

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

3000 Citrus Circle, Suite 215
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

(925) 835-7500

2006 A Street, Suite 223
Antioch, CA 94509

(925) 667-3659



**Facial Injuries Impact
Car Accident Victims
in Many Ways**
SEE PAGE 1

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury 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.



Legal Help Is Just a Phone Call Away

Pedestrian accidents typically result in severe and often fatal injuries to the victim. Getting hit by a car can lead to life-altering injuries like spinal cord damage, broken bones, traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), and even death.

If you were injured or a loved one died after getting hit by a car, you need a pedestrian accident lawyer with the knowledge, experience, and resources to help you navigate the process of recovering your losses and hold the at-fault party accountable.

Clancy & Diaz, LLP is a personal injury law firm with a reputation for getting accident victims in the Bay Area the money they need and deserve.

Call us to learn more about how we can help you with your potential legal case.