

Pedestrian Accidents Spike on Halloween

How to Stay Safe and What to
Do After a Crash



Halloween might be full of costumes and candy, but it's also one of the most dangerous nights of the year for pedestrians, especially children. With more people walking in the dark and an increase in traffic from parties and trick-or-treating, the risk of pedestrian accidents can spike on October 31. In the East Bay and throughout Northern California, even a short neighborhood stroll can turn tragic if a driver isn't paying attention.

Whether you're heading out with your kids or driving through residential areas, it's important to understand the risks of pedestrian accidents on Halloween and what to do if someone gets hurt.

Why pedestrian accidents happen on Halloween

Pedestrian crashes can occur any time of year, but Halloween presents several hazards:

- **Low visibility:** Many costumes are dark or lack reflective materials, making it hard for drivers to see children and adults crossing the street.
- **Distracted drivers:** Some drivers are checking GPS directions, texting, or rushing to get to parties, and are not fully focused on the road.
- **Poor lighting:** Not all neighborhoods have well-lit streets, making it easier to miss someone crossing the street in the dark.
- **High foot traffic:** With so many people walking between houses or gathering in groups, the chance of a collision increases, especially in driveways, crosswalks, and intersections.

What to do if you or your child is hit by a car on Halloween

If you or a loved one is injured in a pedestrian accident, take these steps to protect your rights:

- Call 911 immediately to report the crash and get medical help.
- Make sure a police report is filed. This document is important when filing an accident claim.
- Get medical attention, even if you think the injuries are minor. Symptoms of serious injuries can appear hours or days later.
- Take pictures of the scene, including injuries, the vehicle involved, and any street signs or traffic controls.
- Collect witness statements or contact information from anyone who saw the accident.
- Avoid speaking with the at-fault driver's insurance company after the accident.
- Talk to a lawyer as soon as possible to learn more about your legal rights.

Halloween safety reminders

Whether you're out trick-or-treating or behind the wheel, a little caution goes a long way. If you're driving on Halloween, remember to:

- Slow down in residential areas since kids may dart out unexpectedly.
- Stay off your phone and be extra alert around crosswalks.
- Turn your headlights on early, even before sunset.

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Why **Left-Turn** Accidents Are So Common in California

When Drivers Misjudge Speed or Distance, Serious Crashes Can Happen



Left-turn accidents happen more often than you might think, especially at busy intersections throughout Northern California. Unlike right turns, left turns often require drivers to cross oncoming traffic, judge gaps in speed and distance, and make quick decisions under pressure. One wrong move can lead to a serious crash.

How do left-turn crashes happen?

Making a left turn requires crossing opposing traffic, often during short green lights or yellow phases. Factors that increase the risk of a left-turn crash include:

- Misjudging the speed or distance of oncoming traffic.
- Failing to yield the right of way.
- Turning in violation of a traffic signal.
- Low visibility due to sun glare, weather, or nighttime conditions.
- Trying to “beat” a yellow light.
- Distracted, reckless, or impatient driving.

Even when drivers think they have a clear view, a sudden decision or lapse in judgment can lead to a serious T-bone or head-on crash.

Where do left-turn accidents occur?

Left-turn collisions can happen almost anywhere, but some places are especially risky. These types of crashes tend to happen at the following areas:

- Busy intersections: Especially those without dedicated turn lanes or protected turn signals. These areas force drivers to make quick judgment calls while navigating oncoming traffic.
- Uncontrolled or unmarked intersections: Without clear signage or signals, it’s easier for drivers to misinterpret who has the right of way.
- Parking lots and driveways: Making a left turn into or out of a parking lot often requires crossing multiple lanes of traffic with limited visibility.

- Rural roads or highways: Drivers may attempt left turns without realizing how fast oncoming vehicles are approaching, leading to high-speed crashes.

Being extra cautious in these locations can help prevent dangerous mistakes, especially during high-traffic times like rush hour or weekend afternoons.

Who’s at fault in a left-turn accident?

In most cases, the driver making the left turn is considered at fault because California law requires them to yield to oncoming traffic. However, that’s not always the case. Other negligent drivers may share liability if they were:

- Speeding.
- Running a red light.
- Driving under the influence.
- Distracted at the time of the crash.

What to do if you were hit by a driver making a left turn

If you were involved in a crash where the other driver turned left in front of you:

- Call the police and get a copy of the accident report.
- Get medical attention, even for minor symptoms and injuries.
- Take photos of the scene of the crash, vehicle damage, and injuries.
- Don’t speak with the other driver’s insurance company before consulting a lawyer.

At Clancy & Diaz, LLP, we know how to handle left-turn crashes and push back when insurers try to deny claims. Let us deal with the insurance company on your behalf while you focus on healing. Contact us for a free consultation and to get your case going in the right direction.

Unsafe Conditions Cause Slip and Falls in Grocery Stores

Learn How to Hold the Store Accountable For Your Injuries



A quick grocery run can take a painful turn if you slip on a wet floor or trip over a hazard in the aisle. Slip and fall accidents are one of the most common causes of injury in grocery stores, and in many cases, they're the result of negligence. What starts as a routine trip to the grocery store can quickly take an unexpected turn. These incidents can leave people with serious injuries and mounting medical bills.

Unfortunately, slips and falls in grocery stores are far more common than many people realize, and they often happen because basic safety steps weren't followed. If you've been injured in a store, you're not alone, and you have legal options.

Why do slip and falls happen in grocery stores?

There are many ways a store's failure to maintain a safe environment can lead to injuries, including:

- Spilled liquids in aisles.
- Freshly mopped or waxed floors without warning signs.
- Leaking refrigeration units or freezers.
- Fallen produce or packaging left on the ground.
- Uneven flooring or broken tiles.
- Cluttered aisles or poorly placed displays.

Store owners and employees are legally required to keep the premises safe or warn customers of known hazards. When they fail to do so, they can be held accountable.

Who is at fault for a grocery store slip and fall?

In many cases, these falls happen because someone failed to maintain a safe environment. That "someone" could be the store owner, a manager, an employee, or even a third-party cleaning crew or contractor. Anyone responsible for keeping the premises safe may potentially be held liable under a legal concept called premises liability, which holds property owners and occupiers accountable when negligence causes harm.

What evidence is important for a slip and fall accident claim?

In any slip and fall case, having strong, solid evidence is crucial. That's because the burden of proof falls on the injured person, meaning you have to show that the hazard existed, that it caused your fall, and that the responsible party failed to address it.

Without clear evidence, it's easy for property owners or insurance companies to deny fault or downplay the seriousness of the incident. That's why it's important to document everything as soon as possible. This includes:

- Taking photos of the spill, broken flooring, or unsafe conditions.
- Getting contact information from witnesses.
- Requesting a copy of the incident report.
- Seeking medical attention right away (and saving your records).
- Requesting a copy of security footage from the store.

Can you sue the store?

Yes, if the store's negligence caused your injury, you have the right to take legal action against the store and file a premises liability lawsuit. To prove your case, you'll need to show that:

- The hazard existed.
- The store knew about it (or should have known).
- They failed to clean it up or warn shoppers in a reasonable amount of time.
- That failure caused the accident and resulted in injury.

Slip and fall cases can be tough to prove without strong evidence. At Clancy & Diaz, LLP, we know what it takes to hold negligent businesses accountable. If you've been injured in a grocery store fall, contact us today for a free consultation.

CLANCY & DIAZ

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YOU NEED A TEAM THAT'S
DEDICATED
TO YOU

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If you are out on foot on Halloween, remember to:

- Use sidewalks and crosswalks, don't jaywalk, even on quiet streets
- Make sure costumes are visible at night with reflectors or flashlights
- Keep an eye on little ones and remind them to stop and look both ways

How a California pedestrian accident attorney can help

Pedestrian accident cases can be challenging, especially if the driver tries to shift blame or their insurer minimizes the injuries. An experienced Walnut Creek pedestrian accident lawyer can:

- Investigate the crash
- Gather evidence (like surveillance footage or witness statements)
- Negotiate with insurance companies
- Pursue maximum compensation for medical bills, lost income, and pain and suffering

If you or your child was hit by a car on Halloween, don't try to handle it alone. Contact Clancy & Diaz, LLP today for a free consultation.