

Why Summer Is Peak Season for Rear-End Crashes in California

What every Bay Area driver needs to know

Summer may be a time for vacations, road trips, and scenic drives throughout Northern California, but it's also peak season for rear-end crashes, especially in and around Walnut Creek and the East Bay. Longer days, congested roads, and distracted drivers combine to make this time of year especially dangerous for drivers and everyone on the road.

With more drivers heading to coastal getaways or popular tourist destinations, traffic can come to a halt in seconds. Unfortunately, many drivers aren't paying attention. They're busy checking directions, scanning restaurant reviews, or chatting with passengers, all of which take their focus off the road. This is why it's important to understand the risks of rear-end accidents during the summer in Northern California.

What causes rear-end collisions in the summer?

Rear-end crashes can happen any time of year, but summer presents unique conditions that increase the likelihood of these accidents. Common contributing factors include:

- **Stop-and-Go Traffic:** Increased travel means more congestion on freeways and local roads, leading to sudden stops and chain-reaction crashes.
- **Distracted Driving:** Smartphones, navigation systems, and conversations with passengers all take drivers' eyes and attention off the road.
- **Speeding or Tailgating:** Eager to reach their destination, many drivers exceed the speed limit or follow other vehicles too closely, leaving little time to react to changing traffic patterns.

- **Driver Fatigue:** Long summer drives or a day in the sun can cause drowsiness, slowing a driver's reaction time and increasing the likelihood of a rear-end collision. Even minor rear-end crashes can lead to serious injuries such as whiplash, herniated discs, or head trauma. These types of crashes are especially dangerous when multiple vehicles are involved.



What to do if you're hit from behind

If you've been rear-ended while driving or riding in a car, protect your legal rights by taking the following steps right away:

- **Call the police and make sure a crash report is filed.** It's the law in California that if anyone is injured, it must be reported to the police. And without a police report, you will likely have a hard time getting the money you deserve for your accident.
- **Get medical attention right away** — even if your pain seems minor at first. Seeing a doctor allows you to determine for certain if you have a serious injury. And by having a doctor diagnose your injury, your injury claim will be even stronger.
- **Document the crash scene** and vehicle damage with photos. If you can't do so yourself, ask someone else to take pictures. These photos can be important evidence in support of your case.

Continued on page 4

Delivery Driver Accidents

Understanding your legal
rights and options



What Happens When You're Hit by a Commercial Vehicle?

Whether it's groceries, furniture, or takeout, delivery vehicles are a constant presence on East Bay roads. As more companies rely on fast-paced delivery schedules, accidents involving commercial vehicles, especially those involving Amazon vans, Instacart drivers, and rideshare services, are on the rise.

Why Do Delivery Driver Accidents Happen?

Delivery drivers are often under extreme pressure to meet tight deadlines. Many rely on GPS systems or constantly check mobile apps to complete tasks and track their next assignment or delivery, which can be distracting. Add in long hours, unfamiliar routes, and frequent stops, and you have a recipe for disaster. Some common crash scenarios include:

- **Illegal U-Turns or Sudden Stops:** Delivery drivers who drive by their destination may make risky maneuvers in an attempt to 'save' time and complete deliveries quickly.
- **Parking in Dangerous Spots:** Double-parking or stopping in bike lanes or driveways can put other road users at risk by forcing them to swerve out into traffic.
- **Distracted or Fatigued Driving:** Long shifts and reliance on mobile apps increase the risk of inattention behind the wheel.
- **Lack of Commercial Driver Training:** Many gig workers don't receive formal training in road safety or defensive driving from the companies they work for. Instead, it's the wild west on many streets, where anything goes with delivery drivers.

When delivery drivers cause a collision, injury victims often face an uphill legal battle trying to get compensation, especially if the driver is a contractor or works for multiple companies, sometimes from one job to the next.

Understanding Commercial Vehicle Insurance Policies

Delivery driver accident cases are much more complex than typical car crash claims because they often involve commercial insurance policies. These policies are usually larger than personal auto policies and are designed to cover accident expenses that occur during business-related driving.

However, just because a policy exists doesn't mean it will be easy to access. This is because there is often a great deal of debate about whether the delivery driver was on duty at the time of the accident.

Additionally, many delivery companies attempt to limit their liability by classifying drivers as independent contractors or requiring injury victims to navigate multiple layers of insurance coverage. To build a strong claim, you need to know:

- **Who the driver was working for at the time of the crash.**
- **Whether the driver was on the clock or off duty.**
- **What insurance policies apply to the vehicle and the company.**
- **Whether any dashcam, GPS, or employment data is available.**

Our experienced legal team at Clancy & Diaz, LLP understands the challenges injury victims face after a delivery vehicle crash. We know how to identify critical evidence and hold accountable those at fault. That way, insurance companies can't shift blame or deny your claim.

Don't wait to get the help you need after a crash involving a delivery driver. Schedule a free consultation with our law firm today to learn more about your potential legal options.



Injured on Broken or Uneven Stairs?

A lawyer can help you demand accountability

What California Property Owners are Legally Required to Fix

A loose railing, worn stair tread, or crumbling cement step might seem like a small hazard—until someone gets seriously hurt. Unfortunately, stairway injuries are all too common in apartment complexes, office buildings, and retail spaces in Walnut Creek and throughout the East Bay.

When property owners fail to maintain stairways, they can be held legally responsible for injuries that occur as a result. This is due to California's premises liability laws. However, those regulations have numerous rules and restrictions that injury victims need to be aware of to have a successful case.

Common Stairway Hazards in California

Staircase accidents can happen anywhere and are especially dangerous for older adults or people with mobility issues. Typical causes of stair-related injuries include:

- **Cracked or Uneven Steps:** Even a small irregularity in height can cause a person to slip, trip, and fall.
- **Loose Handrails:** Missing or wobbly railings leave people without support when they lose balance.
- **Poor Lighting:** Inadequate lighting can make it difficult to see where one stair ends and another begins.
- **Wet or Slippery Surfaces:** Rainwater, spilled drinks, or cleaning products can create slick, dangerous conditions on stairs.
- **Unmarked Stair Edges:** A lack of visual contrast can make it difficult for people to judge the depth or height of stairs.

Falls on stairs can cause serious injuries, including broken bones (hip fractures, broken arms, wrists, etc.), spinal cord injuries, and head trauma

(especially traumatic brain injuries). In many cases, these injuries require extensive medical treatment and a lot of time away from work.

How to Prove a Stair Accident Claim in California

To bring a successful claim under California's premises liability laws, injured victims need to show the following when presenting a legal case:

- **The property owner or manager was responsible for maintaining the stairway.**
- **A dangerous condition existed, such as broken steps or a missing handrail.**
- **The owner knew — or should have known — about the hazard.**
- **No reasonable steps were taken to fix or warn about the danger.**
- **You were injured as a result of the hazard.**

The sooner you act, the stronger your case will be. Take photos of the staircase, document your injuries, report the incident to the property owner, and contact a lawyer who understands California premises liability law.

At Clancy & Diaz, LLP, we understand the urgency of your case and take stairway injury claims seriously. Our attorneys can investigate the scene, gather evidence, and pursue full compensation for your medical bills, lost income, and pain and suffering.

Talk to a Lawyer Who Knows the East Bay

Learn how we can help you. Contact our law firm for a free case evaluation. Let us protect your rights and fight for the maximum compensation you deserve. We handle injury claims throughout the Bay Area.

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SEE PAGE 1

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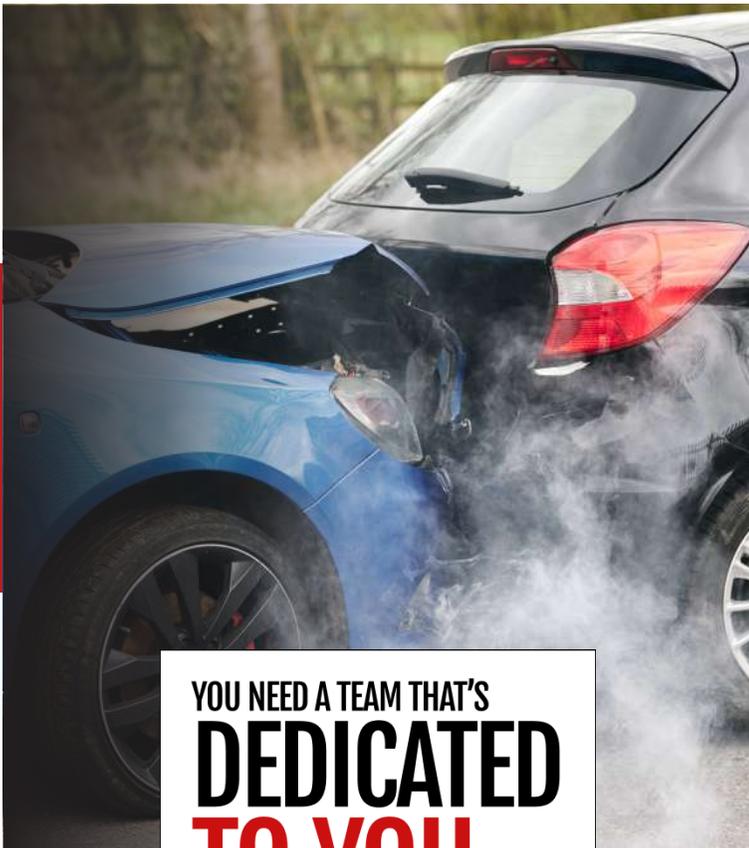
Continued from page 1

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- **Exchange insurance and contact information** with the other driver. Just don't discuss your collision with them. Anything you say could later be used to reduce or deny your claim.
- **Don't talk to the other driver's insurance company** if they contact you. They're likely fishing for information they can use against you, so they don't have to pay you. And whatever you do, do not give them a recorded statement without talking to a lawyer first.
- **Reach out to a lawyer** with experience handling rear-end crash claims right away.

Rear-end accident cases may seem straightforward, but insurance companies often argue that injuries aren't serious or that you were partially at fault. An experienced rear-end accident attorney can gather evidence, handle settlement negotiations, and work with you to recover compensation for medical bills, lost wages, and pain and suffering.

If you or someone you love has been rear-ended and injured, contact Clancy & Diaz, LLP today for a free consultation.



YOU NEED A TEAM THAT'S
DEDICATED
TO YOU