

Escalator Accidents Are **More Dangerous** Than You Think

Why these everyday machines cause some of the most severe public-place injuries

Escalators Feel Routine Until Something Goes Wrong

Escalators are everywhere. Shopping centers, transit stations, airports, office buildings. People step onto them without a second thought. They feel automatic. Predictable. Safe.

But when an escalator malfunctions, the results can be sudden and violent. Unlike slip and falls that happen in a single moment, escalator accidents often trigger a chain reaction. One person falls. Others behind them have nowhere to go. Within seconds, a crowded escalator can turn into a crushing pileup.

For injury victims, the damage is often severe and life-altering.

Why Escalator Accidents Cause So Much Trauma

Escalators move people in tight quarters, on hard metal steps, at awkward angles. When something fails, there is little room to brace or escape. Some of the most serious escalator injuries occur because of:

- **Sudden stops or reversals:** Mechanical failures can cause riders to be thrown forward or backward without warning.
- **Maintenance failures:** Worn parts, broken sensors, and improper inspections often play a role.
- **Entrapment hazards:** Loose clothing, shoelaces, or mobility devices can become trapped in exposed mechanisms.
- **Crowd surges:** At busy transit hubs and shopping centers, one fall can send multiple people crashing down at once.
- **Wet conditions:** Rain-soaked shoes and slick steps increase the risk of losing footing.

Head injuries, fractured bones, spinal trauma, and crushing injuries are all common in serious escalator accidents. For some victims, recovery can take months or longer. For others, the consequences are permanent.

These Accidents Are Rarely “Just an Accident”

Many people assume escalator crashes are unavoidable. The truth is, most are preventable. These machines require constant inspection, proper maintenance, and immediate repair when warning signs appear. When owners and operators cut corners, people pay the price.

Escalator injury cases commonly involve:

- Property owners
- Building managers
- Maintenance contractors
- Equipment manufacturers

When a Routine Trip Turns Into a Serious Injury

At Clancy & Diaz, LLP, we know how quickly these situations unfold and how hard insurance companies fight back. We move fast, dig deep, and stay focused on what injured clients truly need to move forward.

In one case, we recovered \$2 million for a client who suffered a severe foot injury when the escalator on which he was riding malfunctioned.

If you or someone you love has been seriously injured on an escalator or moving walkway, give us a call or contact us online.

How Unsafe Property Conditions Lead to Serious Injuries

When everyday spaces become dangerous without warning



Most People Don't Expect a Building to Hurt Them

When you walk into an apartment complex, a store, a parking garage, or an office building, you expect one basic thing: that the property is safe. You assume the stairs are solid. The railings are secure. The walkways are well-lit. The floors are stable.

But serious injuries happen every day because those assumptions turn out to be wrong.

Unsafe property conditions are one of the most common—and most overlooked—causes of life-changing injuries. And in many cases, the danger existed long before the accident ever happened.

It's More Than Just Slip and Falls

Premises liability isn't limited to someone slipping on a wet floor. Many of the most serious injuries arise from structural hazards that should never have been left unaddressed, including:

- **Broken or missing handrails:** A simple misstep becomes catastrophic when there is nothing to grab for support.
- **Unsafe stairwells:** Uneven steps, loose treads, and poor design can cause violent falls.
- **Loose or buckling flooring:** Warped boards, cracked tiles, and unsecured surfaces create major trip hazards.
- **Poor lighting:** Dim parking garages, hallways, and stairwells make it impossible to see dangers in time to avoid them.
- **Collapsing balconies and elevated walkways:** Structural failures can lead to devastating falls from height.

These hazards don't appear overnight. They develop over time. And most of the time, someone knew the danger existed before anyone got hurt.

Property Owners Have a Legal Responsibility

Property owners and managers are required to inspect their buildings, maintain safe conditions, and fix known hazards within a reasonable

time. When they ignore warning signs, delay repairs, or cut corners on maintenance, they place every visitor, tenant, and guest at risk.

Many serious injury cases involve prior complaints, ignored maintenance requests, or repeated temporary fixes that never solved the underlying problem.

When that pattern of neglect leads to an injury, the responsibility does not fall on the victim. It falls on the party who failed to make the property safe.

What Victims Are Often Up Against

After a severe injury on unsafe property, victims frequently encounter resistance from insurers and property owners. Common arguments include:

- The hazard "was obvious"
- The injury was the victim's fault
- The owner "didn't have enough notice"
- The condition was "minor" or "temporary"

Meanwhile, the injured person is dealing with surgery, missed work, physical therapy, and the emotional toll of a sudden loss of independence.

This is why evidence matters. Maintenance records, inspection logs, surveillance video, witness statements, and expert evaluations all play a key role in establishing what really happened.

When Neglect Changes a Life

No one visits a store, a friend's apartment, or a public building expecting to leave in an ambulance. Yet unsafe property conditions change lives every day. The physical pain is only part of the story. Financial stress, lost career opportunities, and long-term medical needs often follow.

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The Most Overlooked Injury Claim People Leave on the Table

Why the biggest financial losses often show up after a case is already settled



Most People Only Think About Today's Bills

After a serious injury, the focus is immediate and intense. Hospital bills. Follow-up appointments. Time missed from work. Pain that doesn't let up. For most people, the goal is simple: survive the moment and get back on their feet.

What many don't realize is that the most costly losses often appear later. Long after the casts come off and the stitches heal, financial damage keeps building quietly in the background.

And once a case is settled, there is usually no going back.

What Gets Missed in So Many Injury Claims

Insurance companies concentrate on what is visible right now because it works in their favor. If they can close a case before future needs are clear, they limit their exposure. Victims are often left paying out of pocket later.

Common categories of compensation that are overlooked include:

- **Future medical care:** Surgeries, injections, rehabilitation, and long-term specialist treatment often surface months or years after the initial injury.
- **Ongoing therapy:** Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and pain management add up fast when recovery is slow or incomplete.
- **Loss of earning capacity:** Some people return to work but never at the same level as before. Promotions disappear. Hours shrink. Careers shift permanently.
- **Home and vehicle modifications:** Ramps, mobility-accessible bathrooms, vehicle lifts, and special equipment often become necessary.
- **Permanent limitations:** Chronic pain, reduced mobility, nerve damage, and traumatic brain injuries can change how a person lives forever.

These losses rarely come with a single receipt. They unfold gradually, quietly eroding financial stability over time.

Why Rushing a Settlement Creates Long-Term Risk

When bills are due and income is limited, a quick settlement can feel like relief. Insurance companies count on that pressure. They offer what looks like a lifeline before the full picture is known.

But once you sign, the case is closed, even if the injury worsens. Even if complications appear. Even if your ability to work never fully returns.

That's why patience matters. Waiting until the full impact of an injury is understood often makes the difference between short-term relief and long-term protection.

How Hidden Losses Are Proven

These types of damages do not rely on assumptions. They're built through medical projections, vocational evaluations, economic analysis, and expert testimony. It takes time, planning, and a legal team that knows how to think ahead.

Future-focused claims are not about inflating numbers. They're about making sure the compensation reflects real life, not just the emergency room visit.

Protecting What You Can't Yet See

At Clancy & Diaz, LLP, we take a long-view approach to every serious injury case. That means looking beyond today's paperwork and asking the harder questions about tomorrow.

If you were injured and are wondering whether your claim truly reflects the full impact of what you've lost, give us a call or contact us online. We are here to help you understand your options before critical decisions are made.

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How Unsafe Property Conditions Lead to Serious Injuries

At Clancy & Diaz, LLP, we know how to investigate dangerous property cases and how hard insurance companies work to avoid responsibility. We dig into the property's history, uncover patterns of neglect, and build cases that demand real accountability.

For example, in one premises liability case, we secured \$1.3 million for a client who fell and broke her ankle while going down uneven steps that lacked a handrail at a rental house.

The injury required surgery, and because she had diabetes, she developed an infection and eventually had her foot amputated. She had two more amputations after that and eventually had an above-the-knee amputation.

If you or a loved one has been seriously injured because a property was not properly maintained, attorney Pete Clancy and his dedicated legal team are here to help you demand justice and accountability. To schedule a free consultation, give us a call or contact us online today. It doesn't cost you anything to find out if you have a case, and you pay nothing unless we recover compensation on your behalf.

Learn Your Rights After an Accident

Explore Our Extensive Video Gallery
clancylawgroup.com/video-gallery

Each video features practical guidance to help you understand your rights and what steps to take after a crash.