

Distracted Driving Is Still One of California's Biggest Dangers

How distracted driving puts Californians at risk

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, a reminder that distractions behind the wheel remain a leading cause of accidents in California. Across the Bay Area, drivers who take their eyes off the road — whether to check a text or adjust GPS — can turn a routine drive into a life-altering crash in seconds.

Why distracted driving leads to accidents

Distracted driving isn't just about texting. Many everyday actions behind the wheel can take attention away from the road, often with dangerous consequences:

- **Phone use:** Sending a text, scrolling through social media, or glancing at a notification can cause a driver to miss a stoplight or strike a pedestrian.
- **In-car technology:** Modern vehicles offer many features like touchscreens and music controls, which can tempt drivers to take their eyes off the road.
- **GPS and navigation:** Checking directions repeatedly or rerouting while moving can easily distract a driver.
- **Multitasking:** Eating, drinking, talking to passengers, or handling items reduces reaction time and increases the risk of collisions.

Even a few seconds of distraction at high speeds can result in serious injuries or fatalities. That's why distracted driving remains such a constant danger on California roads, especially in high-traffic areas where conditions change fast. It only takes one moment of inattention for a driver to miss a brake light, drift into another lane, or fail to see a person in a crosswalk.

What to do if you're injured in a distracted driving crash

If you or a loved one is hurt:

- Call 911 and get medical help immediately.
- Ensure a police report is filed — this is crucial for claims.
- Gather evidence by taking photos of vehicles, injuries, and the scene.
- Collect witness statements or contact info from anyone who saw the crash.
- Avoid speaking with the at-fault driver's insurance company before consulting a lawyer.

How Clancy & Diaz can help

Proving distracted driving can be complicated. The car accident lawyers at Clancy & Diaz have experience gathering and presenting detailed evidence to support your claim, including:

- **Phone records and timestamps:** Showing when a driver used their phone and creating a timeline of distraction.
- **Security or traffic camera footage:** Revealing moments of inattention or reckless behavior that may not be obvious from accident reports.
- **Witness statements:** Collecting firsthand accounts to confirm what happened and strengthen your claim.

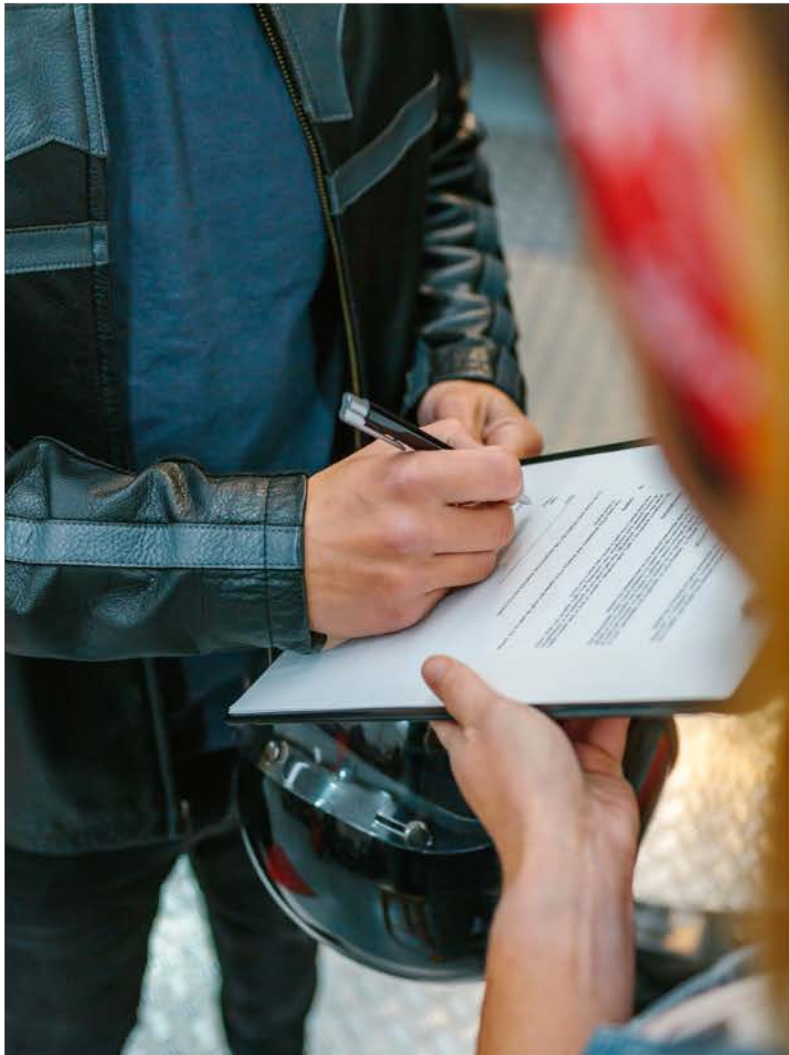
If a distracted driver caused your accident, don't face the insurance company alone. Contact Clancy & Diaz, LLP for a free consultation and let our team handle the investigation while you focus on recovery.

Why Motorcyclists Get Blamed After Crashes

How facts and evidence tell the real story



Motorcycle crashes are common across Northern California and unfortunately, motorcyclists often face bias after an accident. Insurance companies and at-fault drivers frequently try to shift blame to the rider, claiming they were speeding, weaving through traffic, or “not visible enough.” These assumptions can make recovery harder and a motorcycle accident claim more stressful. Without careful documentation, these biases can influence claims, settlements, and insurance decisions.



Why motorcyclists are often blamed

Motorcyclists face unfair assumptions for several reasons:

- **Common assumptions:** Many people see motorcycles as risky, leading to stereotypes that riders are reckless or careless.
- **Insurance tactics:** Insurance companies may lean on these biases to minimize payouts, even when evidence shows the rider was not at fault.
- **Visibility challenges:** Motorcycles are smaller and sometimes harder to spot, which can make them easy targets for misplaced blame after a crash.

These factors can make riders vulnerable to unfair narratives, even when they are the victims.

How evidence reveals the truth

Motorcyclists have legal rights to protect their claims. A motorcycle accident lawyer can uncover the facts using a combination of investigative methods to cut through assumptions:

- **Accident scene investigation:** Photos, measurements, and diagrams document skid marks, vehicle positions, and road conditions to show exactly what happened.
- **Witness statements:** Bystanders, passengers, and other drivers provide firsthand accounts that clarify disputed events.
- **Physical evidence:** Damage patterns on motorcycles and other vehicles, along with debris and roadway markings, help confirm speed, movement, and impact points.

This detailed approach ensures that cases rely on facts, not stereotypes.

Continued On Page 4

How Social Media Can Hurt Your Personal Injury Claim

Posts to avoid after an accident

Social media is a great way to stay connected, but after a personal injury, your posts can unintentionally harm your claim. Insurance companies often monitor platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, looking for any information they can twist to reduce payouts. Some posts may seem harmless, but they can hurt your case.

1. Photos of activities or hobbies

Posting pictures of yourself hiking, biking, or doing physical activities can make it seem like your injuries aren't serious. Even casual snapshots can be interpreted as evidence that your pain or limitations are exaggerated.

2. "I'm fine" updates

Sharing that you're feeling okay or posting upbeat status updates may seem harmless, but insurance adjusters can use them to argue that your injuries are minimal. Statements like "Feeling great today!" can be pulled out of context to undermine your claim.

3. Comments about the crash

Avoid posting your own account of the accident. Even small details or opinions like "The other driver was totally at fault" can be used against you or contradict official reports. Your statements can be dissected and potentially misrepresented in ways that hurt your case.

4. Talking about the case or legal proceedings

Never post about your claim, settlement demands, or conversations with your lawyer. Discussing your case online can tip off insurance companies, and anything you share may be used in court.

5. Messaging with the other driver

Private messages to the at-fault driver, even if meant to be friendly or polite, can be used to suggest you contributed to the accident or agreed to a resolution outside the legal process.

Insurance company tactics

Insurance companies actively monitor social media after accidents. A single post, photo, or comment can be twisted to:

- Downplay your pain or physical limitations
- Reduce the damages you are entitled to recover
- Question your credibility or honesty

Even innocent-seeming activity updates can be used to argue you are exaggerating your injuries. The safest approach is to pause posting or set strict privacy settings until your claim is fully resolved.

At Clancy & Diaz, LLP, we help clients understand these risks and protect their claims. By avoiding risky posts and leaving communication to us, you can focus on recovery without worrying about social media undermining your case.



2855 Mitchell Drive
Suite 203
Walnut Creek, CA
94598
(925) 835-7500

2006 A Street
Suite 223
Antioch, CA
94509
(925) 667-3659

1060 Grant Street
Suite 3B
Benicia, CA
94510
(707) 418-3809

1210 Central Blvd.
Suite 123
Brentwood, CA
94513
925-365-7812

420 Railroad Avenue
Suite 210
Pittsburg, CA
94565
(925) 568-8707

Distracted Driving Is Still One of California's Biggest Dangers

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.

Continued From Page 2

Why Motorcyclists Get Blamed After Crashes

How Clancy & Diaz protect riders and their recovery

Motorcycle accidents are complex, and unfair blame can add stress to an already difficult situation. The team at Clancy & Diaz helps riders focus on recovery by:

- **Holding the responsible party accountable:** Ensuring the at-fault driver and insurers cannot shift blame unfairly.
- **Challenging insurance denials or reduced claims:** Using detailed evidence to prevent unjust payouts.
- **Presenting clear, compelling evidence:** Accident scene photos, witness statements, and physical evidence strengthen the rider's case.
- **Focusing on the rider's recovery:** Handling the legal process so clients can concentrate on healing physically and emotionally.
- **Building strong, fact-based cases:** Cutting through stereotypes and assumptions to prove what really happened.

Motorcycle accidents can be complex, especially when others try to place blame unfairly. At Clancy & Diaz, LLP we know how to build strong cases using facts, not assumptions. We work to ensure insurance companies cannot unfairly deny or reduce a claim, allowing injured bikers to focus on recovery.

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.