

The Top 20 Causes of Vehicular Accidents

by Amy Spanos • August 7, 2017



Even the most experienced driver can become distracted or have an increased need to be overly reactive due to circumstantial events. If you have faulty brakes or are startled by a car in your blind spot, swerve while looking at a text message, or are yelling at your kids in the back seat, you are a less responsive driver. Every time any driver enters the roadway, they must be aware of their surroundings, as well as use cautious discretion regarding the other automobile drivers around them.

Some of the most common causes of auto accidents are as follows:

1. Distracted

Distracted Drivers are the leading cause of accidents. Whether someone is texting, eating, yelling at their kids, daydreaming, or changing the radio station, the one second that it takes to remove your eyes from the road, or hands from the wheel are the most perilous. If you are driving at a speed of 55 mph and you take your eyes off the road for 5 seconds, you will travel a distance of 120 yards, which is the length of an entire football field. The small distraction could be the difference between life and death, or serious injury occurring to either the driver or the victims in their pathway.

2. Speeding

Many people drive over the speed limit both intentionally while trying to hurry to their desired location and unintentionally because of distraction. Speeding can cause serious injury. If you crash, the force increases depending on the increments of speed over the average. For example, if you crash at 25 mph the damages will be visible, but most likely not deadly, but if you crash in the same manner at a speed of 50 mph, your result will be four times as high, which could cause serious damages and even death.

3. Driving while Under the Influence

Anyone driving while drunk or on drugs (even prescription narcotics), is at a much greater risk of having an accident due to their impaired reflexes and compromised vision. It is illegal to operate a vehicle if you are under the influence. You must have a designated driver, call a cab, or avoid driving at all costs.

4. Reckless Driving

Drivers who are aggressive when changing lanes, passing, and tailgating all increase the likelihood of accidents due to their fast pace, along with their hindered reactions.

5. Inclement Weather

Even though Florida provides us with a good deal of sunny days, we are still predisposed to experience some heavy rains and winds for a majority of the summer and fall months. During these times, it's best to slow your speed, keep a significant distance between you and other drivers, use extra caution and stay off of the roads completely if the weather is extreme, such as with hurricanes and tropical storms.

6. Unskilled Drivers (Teens/Elderly/Unfocused)

All distracted drivers are unqualified to drive safely at the time of their diverted attention. Teens typically do not have that much experience with "close calls" and other events that need fast reactive processing along with skilled driving. Teens or elderly individuals that feel apprehensive in any way should avoid heavy traffic, and practice their driving abilities until they feel more comfortable driving on their own in various circumstances. You may want to have a friend or family member drive you in stressful situations, or altogether.

7. Sleep Deprived

If you are having difficulty staying awake, it's extremely hazardous for you to be driving. The same risks are in place for drowsy drivers that are for those driving under the influence. Stop in a safe place to rest, or don't get behind the wheel at all if you are too tired.

8. Blind Spots/Lane Changes

Blind spots and drivers changing lanes without seeing other vehicles or pedestrians are a huge cause of motor vehicle accidents. Don't just rely on your side view mirrors, drivers assist mechanisms, or rearview mirror. You must physically look around and cautiously backup, make a turn, or merge into other lanes.

9. Running Red Lights/Stop Signs/Traffic Circles or Diamonds

Distracted or reckless drivers often run red lights, stop signs and blast through busy intersections causing significant damage, injuries, and even death. Trying to navigate traffic circles and diamonds can be intimidating if you are not unfamiliar with the merging process. Always proceed with extra caution in these situations.

10. Tailgating

If you tend to drive too close to other vehicles because you either want them to speed up or pull over, you are risking the lives of many people around you. Tailgating leads to irritated drivers and causes accidents when the car in front needs to slam on their brakes for a pedestrian or other vehicle, as you will not have enough time to stop. Trying to keep a two-car distance is imperative to keep all drivers safe.

11. Road Rage

Many needless car accidents are caused by road rage. If you are a person that has road rage, you should take an anger management course or seek other therapy for your disorder. If you are the victim of a road rage driver, do not provoke them in any way. It's best to let them pass you if possible.

12. Automobile Recalls/Defects

If your automobile has vehicular defects such as acceleration issues, faulty brakes, or any other defect that may inhibit your safety, you must get those items repaired immediately.

13. Faulty Brakes

If your vehicle does not stop quickly or efficiently on hills or on flat roadways, you must take responsibility and have the brakes repaired.

14. Tire Blowouts

While driving on the Interstate, we've all seen or have had to swerve out of the way of tire debris, which is dangerous to other drivers around us. Unfortunately, if your tire blows out, you will most likely lose control of your vehicle and an accident is very likely if other cars are driving in close range.

15. Passing and Dangerous Curves

Individuals that are in a hurry and pass in unsafe zones, or do not have an adequate length between them and oncoming traffic are putting themselves and others in jeopardy. The same applies to dangerous, sharp curves. Slowing your speed will help to alleviate any matters.

16. Animal Crossing

Animals can run across the road at any given time. If you swerve to avoid hitting the animal, you could potentially hit another vehicle or pedestrian. The best-case scenario would be to avoid the situation if you can accurately do so without causing harm to fellow drivers. If you are unable to move out of your lane, you should slow down as much as possible using safety measures first.

17. Potholes/Debris in Roadway

It's always best to try and avoid driving through potholes because it can jolt your vehicle out of control. The same holds true for any debris in the road, if you can safely avoid it, it's always best to do so.

18. Nighttime Driving

Many people have issues with driving at night, due to the darkness causing the incoming lights to distort their vision. If you have issues with driving at nighttime, it's best to ask someone else to drive you to wherever it is that you have to be.

19. Construction Sites

Construction sites with orange cones redirecting drivers can be confusing and can cause crashes. It's best to drive slowly through construction sites and follow the provided directions.

20. Bottle Necking

If you are trying to see the scene of an accident, a police intervention or even trying to read the numbers of an address that you are trying to find, your roadway concentration levels will decrease. You may even swerve into traffic by pulling on the wheel. Even if you are driving slowly and you veer into the other lane even slightly, you may cause an accident. If you are traveling at high speed and you turn into another lane, you may cause serious injury or death to yourself, a pedestrian or another driver.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of any vehicular accident and have sustained injuries, you should consult with a personal injury attorney.

Florida Injury Law Group

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