

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – JULY 2010



TIPS OF THE MONTH

- Bicycle Accidents: Following up on last month's tip on motorcycle accidents, we take this opportunity to remind clients that if you are injured while riding a bicycle, there is no-fault coverage available to you. The insurance company insuring the vehicle that struck you — no matter who is at fault — is required to pay your medical bills and a portion of your lost wages under a standard no-fault claim. Pedestrians are treated the same way. Therefore, if you are a pedestrian, and you are struck by a vehicle, that vehicle's insurance company is required to pay your no-fault claim. We realize this can be confusing, so we take this opportunity to explain the differences. In upcoming months we will go into more detail on the initiation and handling of no-fault claims.
- Distracted Driving: We are all generally aware of the dangers of driving while texting or using non-hands free cell phones. For the latest information on this topic, we recommend the following website: www.nsc.org. We are aware of a number of state and local laws being proposed to address this very serious problem. We will keep you informed as new legislation passes.

RECENT CASE(S) OF NOTE

- Jury awards \$5.3 million to injured worker. Following a two-week trial in Erie County Supreme Court, a jury awarded our client \$5.3 million for very extensive career ending low back injuries. Due to his young age at the time of his accident, and the fact that his doctors determined he could no longer work, we projected his future lost wages well into the future. The jury awarded him those damages, and significant damages for the pain and suffering he sustained. At the time of the accident our client was working on a ladder installing vinyl siding when a power arc from a nearby utility connection knocked him off his ladder. He fell 18-feet to the ground below. The jury unanimously ruled that the utility company failed to maintain adequate insulation of the power lines, and that failure caused the arc to occur.

Contact us today!

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