

Car Accidents & Truck Accidents  
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The statistics can be overwhelming. On average, there are more than 6 million car accidents on the roads of the US, annually. More than 3 million people are injured in car accidents, with more than 2 million of these injuries being permanent.

In many cases, the driver causing the accident was being inattentive for one reason or another. Many car accidents are caused by people talking to other passengers while driving, and others due to drivers playing with the radio while driving. A large percentage is because of eating or drinking while driving, and 25% of car accidents are caused due to talking on cell phones while at the wheel of the car. These car accident statistics are sad enough on their own, the saddest part being that they could have easily been avoided had drivers been paying more attention to driving and less to other activities. We've all seen someone applying makeup in their car while driving! Well, this same person just might cause an avoidable car accident in the future.

The law says that you have certain rights if you are injured as the result of someone else's negligent behavior. If you have been injured in a car accident, or have lost someone because of a car accident, you can file a case of personal injury or a wrongful death claim.

Most **serious car accidents** involve injury of some sort but some can lead to death. Various types of **car accident injuries** include **brain injury**, injury to the spine, **neck injuries**, fractures and broken bones, **head injuries**, etc. Such **serious injuries** can often leave the victims in severe pain and discomfort, not to mention making them disabled for life.

The law is basically designed to "make you whole." That means the law entitles victims of car accidents to recover damages and compensation for their injuries sustained in the accident. However, this is not automatic.

First, your injury is a direct result of the **car accident**. Second, the accident was caused due to another person's negligence or fault and not your own.

If fault can be established, you can recover compensation and damages for the following (basically broken down into "economic" damages and "non-economic" damages):

1. **Medical expenses** incurred in the treatment of your injuries.
2. Any future **medical costs**.
3. Compensation for actual **loss of wages**.
4. Loss of **future wages**.
5. Damages for mental pain and suffering.

Trucks can also lead to **personal injury**. After all, trucks are all over our nations highways. A commercial truck is a vehicle used in the course of business and/or for the transport of commercial goods. Examples are 18-wheelers, tractor trailers, tanker trucks, dump trucks, delivery vehicles, semi trucks and other large freight trucks.

**Accidents involving trucks** are typically more catastrophic than **accidents involving cars** due to the sheer size of a truck. A typical fully loaded large commercial truck can weigh 80,000 pounds or more, while an average passenger automobile weighs approximately 3,000 pounds. Due to this size disparity, and the basic laws of physics, any collision between a commercial truck and another vehicle is likely to result in serious, even fatal, injuries.

Some common causes of truck accidents include inadequate training as to driving technique, safety issues and defensive driving; driver fatigue; a truck's characteristics and capabilities (such as limits associated with acceleration, braking and visibility); drug or alcohol use by the driver; speeding; mechanical failure; defective parts; and improper loading or overloading the truck.

Your recovery in a **personal injury action** can include compensation for your **medical expenses**, hospital bills, income lost because of missed work, pain and suffering, future medical or physical therapy expenses and compensation for any loss of earning capacity resulting from the accident. Measurable damages are often called your "economic" damages while intangible damages (i.e., your pain and suffering) are called your "general" damages.

If you are partially at fault for an accident, your recovery may be affected. It depends on the degree of your fault. Under the legal doctrine in California known as "comparative negligence," the amount of another party's liability for the accident is determined by comparing his or her carelessness with your own. That party's portion of liability determines the percentage of the resulting damages he or she must pay. For example, if a jury awarded you \$100,000 for your case, but you were 30% at fault, your net award would be reduced by 30%.