

LAW OFFICES



# PANTER, PANTER & SAMPEDRO, P.A.

## **HOW TO AVOID INJURY ON THE CONSTRUCTION SITE**

### **WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE INJURED ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE**

- Obtain enough evidence as is possible.
- Take photographs of all relevant people, places, machinery and conditions. Speak with witnesses and obtain their names, address, phone number, email and any other contact information.
- Record any and all information. Witnesses vanish and construction sites change frequently. Therefore, it is important to obtain contact information and photographs of all pertinent conditions immediately to preserve the evidence.
- Write down the names of all trucks, signs and other information which may reveal the name of all companies or workers on the jobsite. Many times there are contractors and subcontractors that may be responsible for your injury and it is important to determine who was working on the site at the time of your accident.

### **TYPES OF RESPONSIBLE PARTIES IN A CONSTRUCTION SITE**

- Contractors and subcontractors. Anyone working on the site may have some responsibility
- Electricians
- Plumbers
- Laborers and/or other workers may be responsible for your injuries.
- Machinery operators, owners and mechanics. If machinery is involved in your accident, the owner of the machine, the company in charge of repairing and/or maintaining the machine and anyone operating the machine may be responsible for your accident.
- Providers of Safety Equipment. Some machinery and construction sites require the use of safety equipment. Failure to provide safety equipment and/or providing defective or inadequate safety equipment may be the basis for a claim.
- Gas, liquid or other foreign substances. Injuries relating to a slip and fall or inhalation of toxic fumes or gases may be the responsibility of various parties. If you slip or trip or fall on a liquid, smell the liquid, take pictures of the liquid, try to determine what type of liquid is involved in your claim. Keep your shoes or clothing which may be stained from the foreign substance.

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## **RULES OF THE ROAD REGARDING TRUCKING ACCIDENT**

- Never follow a truck or tractor trailer too closely. Leave sufficient distance between you and the truck so that the truck driver is able to see you. If you cannot see the driver's side rear view mirrors the driver cannot see you.
- Watch for brake lights. Especially on a rainy day give yourself enough distance so that you are able to see the brake lights in front of you. Immediately upon seeing brake lights light up, pay attention, slow down and react accordingly.
- Watch for other driver's blind spots. Generally trucks have large blind spots on both sides where your car may not be visible. If the truck driver can not see you he will hit you. If you are going to pass a truck, pass on the left hand side rather than the right hand side where the blind spot is smaller.
- If a truck driver is tailgating you do not panic. If a tractor trailer is following to close behind you move out of the way safely.
- Be aware that large trucks require a greater distance to stop or slow down. If you are in front of a truck try not to stop suddenly because it will be difficult for the truck to stop quickly. Do not cut in front of trucks and try to keep a safe distance between other vehicles, your vehicle and large trucks.
- Large trucks require substantial distance to swing wide to the left in order to make a tight right turn. Truck drivers often cannot see smaller vehicles behind them or beside them and therefore, keep your distance approaching intersections with large trucks.
- Be careful when entering or exiting a highway. Large trucks cannot slow down when you merge onto a road and you need to leave substantial space for an oncoming truck. It is also difficult for large trucks to slow down so pay attention behind you when you are exiting the highway.
- Use caution when passing a large truck. Give yourself extra distance between yourself and the truck when changing lanes so that the truck driver can slow down as needed.
- Use extreme caution in rain or poor weather conditions. It is just as difficult for large trucks to operate safely in rain, fog or poor visibility as it is for smaller vehicles. Slow down, increase alertness and pay attention in bad weather.
- Always use your headlights in bad weather or low visibility and make sure that your front and rear windshields are visible for you and others.
- Report dangerous or bad driving when applicable. Many truck drivers have signs on their vehicles which provide you with a phone number to comment on their driving. If you see a truck driver driving inappropriately use the phone number and report him. This will prevent future accidents and keep the roads safer.