

## THE LEGAL OUTLOOK

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## ONE IN FIVE CARS ON THE ROAD IN THE U.S. HAVE OPEN SAFETY RECALLS

According to Carfax, the popular provider of used-car history, nearly one in five vehicles on the road in the United States have safety issues serious enough to be involved in federal recalls. This ratio translates to about 47 million cars on the road in need of repair (out of a total 258.5 million cars on the road), an amount that's up 27% from last year. Larry Gamache, Director of Communications at Carfax, recognizes a lack of action regarding a general response to vehicle recalls, citing the need for, "much hard work."

Gamache also pointed out the troubling fact that the vehicle type with the highest rate of unfixed safety issues (1 of every 4.6) is the mini-van: a vehicle most often purchased to accommodate young, growing families. Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) come in second at one of every 5.1 SUVs on the road with open recalls, followed by pick-up trucks and cars, both at a rate of 1 in every 5.5 vehicles with an open recall.

The states driving the most vehicles with open recalls were, in descending order, Texas, Mississippi, Alaska, Utah, and West Virginia.

**"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should do justice."**

**THOMAS JEFFERSON**

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# RECALL X REPORT

RECALL

IKEA has recalled 840,000 ceiling lamps after 224 incidents were reported of the glass fixtures falling from the ceiling and shattering on the ground. Glass shards caused injuries in 11 of the 224 reports. The ceiling lamps involved in the recall are the Ikea HYBY and LOCK ceiling lamps. They have white, frosted, dome shaped glass shades and three plastic clips that attach the shade to a steel lamp housing. Consumers affected by this recall are urged to immediately uninstall the ceiling lamps and return them to any IKEA store for a full refund. Consumers seeking more information can contact IKEA toll-free at 888-966-4532 anytime or via IKEA's product recalls page online.



## BREAKING IT DOWN: PATIENT SAFETY DISTRACTIONS

By, Eric Weitz

If you have ever been to Times Square in the heart of New York City, you understand how a flood of noise, sights and smells overwhelm even the most hardened city dweller. Regardless of the time of day, electronic lights flash messages ranging from benign advertisements to danger warnings intended to protect individuals from harm. It is virtually impossible for our minds to process this many messages and for us not to become distracted. With an aging and growing population, the increase in the number of individuals with access to health insurance coupled with technological advancements, today's hospitals are virtual Times Squares. Emergency rooms, intensive care units, intermediate care floors and other units are full of hurried care givers inundated with sounds from buzzers, alarms, bells and phones, as well as visual diversions from flashing lights, heart tracings, call lights, computer screens, emails, texts and patient televisions. All of these distractions present significant safety hazards for our family and friends who have to be hospitalized.

Recent data gathered by the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority reveals that over 65% of Serious Events reported in Pennsylvania were caused in some manner by

healthcare providers being

distracted. Studies show that healthcare providers responsible for dispensing medication are distracted every two minutes while emergency room staff members are distracted every six minutes. A 2011 study found that over half of the operating room staff attending cardiac bypass surgery use cell phones during the procedure to text or email. Because of the growing number of distractions, here are tips that you can take on behalf of yourself or loved ones whom you are visiting in a hospital to protect them.

Turn off your television, phone and other electronic devices when you are having a discussion with your healthcare providers. These items impact your ability to concentrate and listen critically. When your nurse or physician sees you focused on them, they will naturally focus on you.

Take notes. If you are able, keep a notepad with key points, test results and medications. If you are unable, ask your friends and family to write notes on your notepad next to your bed. You can always ask the healthcare providers to make notes.

When a healthcare provider brings medication, ask them to double check the name, dose amount, timing and the reason you are receiving the medication. Do not be afraid to ask why you are receiving the medication. Bring a list of your normal medications with you and keep it

next to you during your entire stay. Most smartphones today have a notepad or free apps that can store this information for you.

Before having your blood drawn, radiology studies or any other test, ask the healthcare provider to confirm who ordered the test, whether you are having the correct test and why you are having the test.

When you speak with the healthcare provider, ask them to carefully explain your plan of care. All healthcare providers are trained to create a plan of care regardless of where you are on your journey. Having the healthcare provider repeat the plan or having multiple healthcare providers repeat the same plan forces them to think about what you need and whether the proper steps are being followed. It also allows you to confirm that everyone is on the same page.

It is intimidating and scary to be in a hospital. Even though you or your loved one does not feel well, no one will be more vigilant in protecting your safety than you. Do not be afraid to speak up, ask questions, ask for clarification and be your own advocate. While the healthcare providers in the hospital have many patients, you only have one - so take care of that patient.

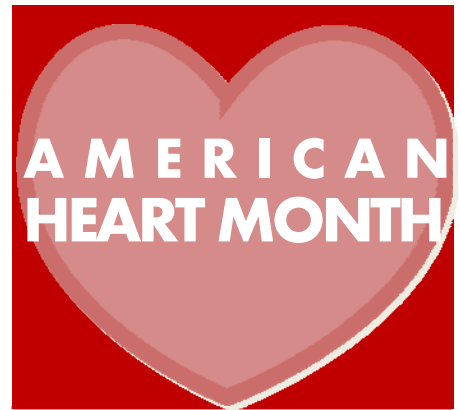
Open vehicle recalls, cont'd

### Vehicle Safety Recalls: Spreading the Word to Consumers

Considering that recalls are fixed at no cost to the consumer at car dealerships nationwide, it could be argued that the fault for the lack of repair of these safety issues falls on the consumer. However, it's also apparent that notifying consumers of these recalls and safety hazards needs to happen more successfully and efficiently. The biggest problem in getting these issues resolved is that most car owners don't even know they are driving vehicles with active recalls.

To help combat this issue, the **United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** (NHTSA) launched their *Safe Cars Save Lives* campaign, providing what is essentially a vehicle recall database, searchable by VIN numbers or vehicle makes and models. An instant result produces any current or past recalls on vehicle parts associated with the VIN or make and model submitted.

NHTSA's tool has the potential to save lives. In only the first 9 months of 2015, 26,000 lives were lost in traffic accidents, and while many of these accidents were caused by human error, others could be attributed to unresolved safety issues.



Heart Disease is the leading cause of death among men and women in America, and while all men and women are at risk, the highest risk belongs to African American men living in the Southeastern region of the U.S. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 40% of African Americans have high blood pressure, which is a leading cause for Heart Disease. That is why the CDC is dedicating this February (American Heart Month 2016) to Million Hearts® and encouraging African American men to take control over their health and start one heart-healthy habit that can help reduce the risk of heart attack or stroke.

- **Visit Your Doctor!** It's important to become informed about heart health. Schedule regular visits with your physician and set goals to increase heart health.
- **Exercise Daily!** Add exercise to your daily routine. Simply walking for extended periods is sufficient. Start out walking 15 minutes, 3x a week. Slowly increase your time each week.
- **Eat Healthy!** Cook heart healthy foods. Need a place to start? Replace salt with fresh herbs and spices.
- **Quit Smoking!** Quitting smoking can dramatically decrease your risk for heart disease and stroke, in addition to other smoking related diseases.
- **Take your Prescriptions!** If your doctor has prescribed high blood pressure meds, take them regularly.

### JERSEY SHORE HOSPITAL ALERTS PATIENTS OF POSSIBLE HIV AND HEPATITIS EXPOSURE OVER A YEAR AGO

Shore Medical Center in Somers Point, NJ has notified 213 patients by mail that they may have been exposed to HIV and/or hepatitis B/C due to employee drug tampering. An investigation is currently underway at the South Jersey hospital, assisted by the NJ Department of Health and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to determine whether or not patients who received intravenous morphine or hydromorphone medications between June 1, 2013 and September 17, 2014, contracted the deadly diseases.

A pharmacist formerly employed by the hospital was recently charged and, if convicted, could face up to 10 years in prison, for replacing morphine with saline solution in vials that were administered to patients. Affected patients were told in letters from the hospital that it was this tampering that could have caused them to come in contact with HIV or Hepatitis B/C. The Department of Health has recommended that, even though the risk of infection is low, each of the 213 affected patients should be tested, out of an abundance of caution.

A dedicated call center has been set-up for patients and families with additional questions. Affected parties can call 609-653-3900 with questions, or to schedule a testing appointment.



## SETTLEMENTS & VERDICTS

Lee D. Rosenfeld earned a confidential **\$750,000 settlement** for the victim of a work accident that resulted in severe and permanent pain, nerve damage, and deformity in victim's foot.

# AROUND THE OFFICE



Messa & Associates Marketing Coordinator, Angela Leone, is directing Camden Catholic High School's production of the musical, *Pippin*, opening March 11th and running through March 19th. Tickets can be purchased at [www.cchperformingarts.com](http://www.cchperformingarts.com).



Jahaan Ameen, paralegal to Lee Rosenfeld and Jennifer Gomez Hardy, was recently engaged to her boyfriend, James. The two have been together since Jahaan was 17! Congratulations to the both of them.



Many congratulations to Dana Gallo, secretary to Suzanne H. dePillis, on *her* recent engagement! (Love is in the air!) Dana is now engaged to her boyfriend, Matt. The two live in Center City together and enjoy Sunday gravy and summers down the shore.

## MAIN LOCATIONS

PHILADELPHIA  
123 S 22nd St  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
P: 215-568-3500

CHERRY HILL  
2091 Springdale Rd.  
Suite 2

## SATELLITE LOCATIONS

COLLINGSWOOD  
475 White Horse Pike  
Collingswood, NJ 08107  
P: 856-833-0600

GERMANTOWN  
6000-6002 Germantown Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19144  
P: 215-844-1614

CONSHOHOCKEN  
923 Fayette St.  
Conshohocken, PA 19246  
P: 215-940-7700

LINWOOD  
605 New Road  
Linwood, NJ 08221  
P: 609-601-1644

ROSELLE  
520 West First Ave

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TRIAL ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS