

The STRAIGHTTALK

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The Newsletter

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After that snow storm we just had, it probably feels like Seattle can handle any sort of weather that gets thrown at us. However, just because ice isn't falling from the sky doesn't mean we shouldn't take precautions. As the weather gets warmer it's also probably going to get wetter, so here are some tips for driving in a deluge:

1. Slow down and take your time. This may seem obvious, but with the limited visibility that rain affords, it is more difficult to spot other vehicles and pedestrians on the road.
2. Turn on your lights but leave the high beams off. Headlights will help other cars to see you, but high beams will reflect off the rain and limit what you can see.
3. Use a light touch when braking or steering. Brake earlier and more gently than you would otherwise.
4. Avoid puddles if you cannot see how deep they are. The last thing you want is to run through a deep puddle, as being submerged can damage the electrical systems of many vehicles.
5. Follow the car in front of you. By following the tracks of the car ahead, you are allowing them to 'forge a path' through the water on the road.

Answer our Valentine's trivia
inside and WIN!





Ways to Stay Green on Valentine's Day

A billion Valentines are sent every year around the globe. | 36 million heart-shaped boxes of candy are bought every year. | 10% of engagements happen on V-Day.

- Buy fair trade or organic chocolates.
- Purchase a live plant. (It will last longer than roses!)
- Purchase a card that uses recycled or tree-free paper.
- Instead of just a stuffed bear, adopt an animal from the National Zoo on their behalf.
- Choose socially conscious diamonds, or consider an alternative material for jewelry (like wood.)
- Make dinner (or breakfast in bed!) for your sweetie using locally grown and organic food.
- Drink organic wine with dinner.
- Buy organic or locally grown flowers.



February is National Chocolate Lover's Month!



Celebrate with a hot chocolate on us by answering our trivia question on the back page!

Passengers: a Dangerous Distraction?

The news that teens driving with passengers are more likely to get into an accident isn't really news at all: the statistics have been around for awhile. What wasn't clear, though, was why passengers caused the accident rate to go up. With car accidents accounting for 25% of all teen deaths, it is important to understand what causes these accidents so we can teach teens how to prevent them.

75% of all crashes involving teen drivers are caused by a 'critical error' on the part of the teen. About half of all serious crashes came down to three common mistakes:

- 1) Lack of scanning needed to detect and respond to dangers on the road.
- 2) Driving too fast for the road conditions.
- 3) Being distracted by something inside or outside the vehicle.

All three of these mistakes could find their root cause in the passengers in the vehicle at the time of the crash. Teens are much more likely to drive faster and more aggressively when passengers are in the vehicle. When polled, 93% of teens said that they see teens distracting other teens while driving in the car. 45% said that they saw teens encouraging their driving counterparts to speed while riding as passengers in the car.

The distractions of another teenager in the car could prove just as deadly as drinking and driving. This is why it's so important to continue to monitor your teen's driving habits even after they have completed driver's education. It is the goal of organizations like our own Teens Against Distracted Driving (TADD) to educate teenagers further about the dangers of distracting behavior, like texting and driving. To learn more, visit www.teensagainstdistracteddriving.com.





Valentine's Day Trivia!

In which of Shakespeare's plays was Valentine's Day mentioned?

BONUS:

What is Jason's nickname for his wife?

Email dlee@plg-llc.com with the solution to win!

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Thanks for the referrals!

Readers of this newsletter have referred 31 clients since the start of 2010. Thank you so much, and please let us know if we can help you in the future!

FREE Legal Resource Guides



- The Truth About Washington Auto Accidents
- The Truth About Washington Motorcycle Accidents
- The Truth About Buying
- Washington Auto Insurance
- In Case of Death: Straight Talk on Washington Wrongful Death

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We Want to Feature YOU in Our Newsletter!

That's right, we want to recognize those of you that are doing amazing things in our next newsletter in a new feature called "Community Member Spotlight!"

If you, or someone you know deserves recognition for something they do, please let us know!

Email Danielle at Dlee@plg-llc.com with some background information and contact info to follow up on, and we'll write a feature article on this community hero for our next newsletter!



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