



# Kalfus & Nachman



## INJURY AND DISABILITY LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015

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## Drive Carefully to Avoid Hydroplaning on Wet Roads

Virginians are no strangers to snow, especially this winter, but most of our bad weather driving is in the rain. Wet roads can be even more dangerous than snowy or icy conditions. In fact, the majority of weather-related auto accidents occur on wet pavement (74%) and during rainfall (46%) (U.S. DOT Road Weather Management Program).



### Watch Out for Those First Few Drops

Roads regularly accumulate a thin layer of oil from passing vehicles and new asphalt. Because of this coating, the first ten minutes of rain are the most dangerous as the moisture mixes with the oil to create a greasy surface.

It takes longer to stop a vehicle when roads are wet. Be sure to:

- Keep in mind that you must adjust your driving behavior when conditions are poor.
  - Slow down!
  - Turn wiper blades on and on the correct continuous speed.
  - Headlights should be turned on; avoid just using parking lights.
  - Allow for increased braking time by putting more room between your car and the vehicle you are following.
- ....continued on page 2*

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....continued from page 1 **Drive Carefully to Avoid....**

- Avoid standing water.
- Turn off cruise control.
- Avoid hard braking and quick turns.
- Be watchful for lack of caution on the part of other drivers.

### Hydroplaning Doesn't Take a Lot of Water

Poor drainage, a heavy downpour or excessive speed on a wet road can cause your car to hydroplane.

Hydroplaning occurs when the amount of water in front of the tires builds up faster than the weight of the car can push it away. This forces a thin layer of water under the tires. The brakes won't respond and, because the wheels won't have any traction, you can't steer the car. This is a recipe for disaster!

If you find yourself in a hydroplaning situation, slow down immediately to allow the tires to contact the road again. Light braking will help if you have anti-lock brakes. Continue to look and steer in the direction you want the car to go.

### Maintain Car in Optimal Condition for Wet Road Driving

Just as you prep your car for winter, make sure it's ready for spring rains:

- Invest in new wiper blades when streaks appear on the windshield.
- Check tire condition often, especially tread depth and inflation, and rotate regularly.
- Keep washer reservoirs full.

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If you or a family member have suffered damages as a result of a vehicle accident or other personal injury, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call **800-361-0430** for your initial free consultation. Kalfus & Nachman PC, Personal Injury attorneys in Norfolk, can help you determine if you need a lawyer for any personal injury case.

## Spring Forward Safely – Daylight Savings Time – Kalfus & Nachman

The Insurance Journal released an article on January 9th, 2015, from an economist that shows car crashes rise with daylight savings time. How can that be if we have more daylight? What is driving the increase in accidents. First they took a look at why we still move our clocks forward each spring. We save on electricity, crime, and traffic; the thing we lose which is critical is sleep.



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## Our Attorneys



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**Ask an Attorney  
a Question**

## ....continued from page 2 **Spring Forward Safely – Daylight Savings Time....**

Austin Smith, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Colorado-Boulder, took a look at fatal crash data from 2002-2011 to see what happens within the first few days of daylight savings time. He compared the number of crashes that occur just before and after the time changes each year.

"The result: Fatal crashes increased by about 6% over the 6 days immediately following the spring transition but didn't change after the fall transition. Because people "lose" an hour only in spring, and because the accidents weren't concentrated at times when changes in daylight might have been a factor. Smith attributes the spike in crashes to inadequate sleep. He estimates that the 6 percent increase amounted to more than 300 added deaths over the 10-year period he studied."

At Kalfus & Nachman PC, we are committed to bringing information such as this to your attention, so that you can be aware of how small changes in our daily lives, can change our lives forever.

Remember as you spring forward, to also spring back an hour at bedtime to assure you are well rested. Please make sure that you are alert and not distracted when behind the wheel. We don't want you to become a statistic in the next study.

## **Safe Ride Home**

**Thanks for making #Hurtline SafeRide a tremendous SUCCESS!**

Super Bowl Sunday Hampton Roads Law Enforcement responds to increased roadway incidents caused by drunk drivers.

**In 2013, 10,076 people died in drunk-driving crashes - one every 52 minutes - and 290,000 are injured in drunk driving accidents, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration FARS data, 2014. <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/-Pubs/812102.pdf>.** On Super Bowl Sunday, 43% of all motor vehicle accident fatalities are alcohol related.



On Super Bowl Sunday, 43% of all motor vehicle accident fatalities are alcohol related.

The team here at Kalfus & Nachman partnered with other organizations to make sure you were safe getting home on one of the most celebrated nights of the year. We implemented the #HURLINE SafeRide Program this year.

Here are the important details about the **Kalfus & Nachman Safe Ride Home Program** and how it worked:

- Free cab rides were available in the 757 area code region "Designated Cab Companies ONLY."
- Clients called one of the designated companies listed and said they were requesting a cab from the **Kalfus & Nachman Safe Ride Home**.
- Taxi rides were available for the prevention of driving under the influence –and only available on that date.
- Rides were provided to get you to a person's residence from a bar or restaurant– they were not available to take users to other drinking locations.
- You had to be 21 or over to participate.

Thanks everyone for helping to keep the Hampton Roads Roadways Safe by requesting a ride!!!



## Wishing all of our March Birthday Team Members HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Richard F. Aufenger III



Colin O'Dawe



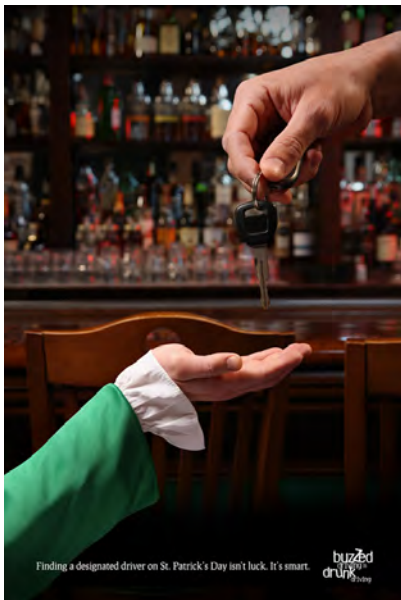
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## Happy St. Patrick's Day

### It's Not Luck. It's Smart.



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Finding a designated driver on St. Patrick's Day isn't luck. It's smart.