



Fall Driving Safety Tips



The fall is a beautiful time as the leaves start to change color and the weather gets brisker. The autumn season can also present new challenges for motorists on the road. Each day during the fall it gets darker earlier, lessening the amount of daylight in which to drive. The days are getting shorter, and with Daylight Saving Time soon ending, those who were driving home from work in the daytime could find themselves driving home in the dark or as the sun is setting.

Drivers should be prepared for these changing conditions and know that soon they will be faced with more nighttime driving. Here are some tips for how to prepare and be proactive to avoid an accident:

- **Maintain headlights.** Have them cleaned and fixed if they are misaligned. Having strong headlights will allow you to see better at night.
- **Watch for pedestrians.** Pay particularly close attention for bike riders and pedestrians out on the road at night when you are driving through suburban streets. They can be difficult to spot in darker places.
- **Watch for school children and school buses.** In the morning and late afternoon, be on the lookout for young children walking to and from school, as well as boarding and disembarking from school buses.
- **Be mindful of deer.** Fall is an active breeding time for deer. Drive slow through areas know to be frequented by deer. If you see one cross the road, expect more deer are coming.

Another dangerous aspect of driving in the autumn has to do with the leaves. Although they may look pretty on the trees, they can be dangerous once they fall on the road and get wet. They can also hide potholes and other driving road obstacles that could cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

You should be aware as you drive this autumn, especially as the leaves begin to pile up on the street. When leaves get wet, they can get slippery. Pay close attention when you are coming around turns, so you do not lose control of your vehicle.

Also keep an eye out for leaf piles, as children love to jump and burrow in them. If you encounter a leaf pile, do not drive through the leaves. Finally, never park your car on a leaf pile, as it can react to your exhaust or your catalytic converter and cause a fire.

Wet Leaves are Dangerous for Pedestrians as Well



Although vehicles can slip and slide on the road because of wet and slippery leaves, they can make for dangerous conditions for pedestrians as well. When leaves get wet, they can stick to the sidewalk and become slick and slippery. Your shoes can have a difficult time gripping them, meaning your chance of slipping and falling can increase.

Wet leaves can also cover abnormalities and inconsistencies in the sidewalk. If you do not see a block of sidewalk jutting up, you could easily trip and fall and suffer significant injuries. It is the responsibility of the homeowner or property manager to clear away any leaves before they can pose a hazard to pedestrians.

Walkways and driveways should be clear as soon as possible. Leaves can be piled up or gathered elsewhere, as long as they do not accumulate in an area that a reasonable person would be expected to walk through.

Multiple Attorneys Honored by Local Magazine



Eckell, Sparks, Levy, Auerbach, Monte, Sloane, Matthews & Auslander, P.C. is honored to announce the inclusion of 20 of its attorneys to *Main Line Today's 2021 Top Lawyers* list. The 20 selected highlight the already impressive lineup of attorneys at the firm who practice in many different areas of law, including personal injury, employment law, family law, estate planning, business law, medical malpractice, and others.

Congratulations to the following attorneys recognized as a Top Attorney for 2021 by Main Line Today:

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Lawyers Attend Bench Bar Conference

Several members of the firm attended the Delaware County Bar Association's Annual Bench Bar Conference in September. The event was held at Skytop Lodge in Skytop, Pennsylvania, and it was an opportunity for lawyers to get together to discuss a variety of topics that impact them and their clients. Our legal team returned with a lot of good insight that they will be able to use in assisting our clients.



Craig B. Huffman Wins Service Award



Congratulations
CRAIG B. HUFFMAN, ESQ.

As part of the events that took place during the Delaware County Bar Association's Annual Bench Bar Conference, our very own Craig B. Huffman was awarded the E. Wallace Chadwick Memorial Award for his exceptional service. The award is revered among lawyers in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Craig joined the law firm in 2001 and practices family law and Orphans' Court litigation. He has a long-standing association with the Delaware County Bar Association, having served as its President in 2019, as well as being the only individual to twice serve as the Chairperson of the Delaware County Bar Association Family Law Section.

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If you need help with a legal matter, our *legal team* at *Eckell, Sparks, Levy, Auerbach, Monte, Sloane, Matthews & Auslander, P.C.* can assist you. Call us at *610-565-3701* or *contact us online* for an initial consultation. Located in Media and West Chester, Pennsylvania, we serve clients throughout Delaware County, Chester County, and Montgomery County.



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