

# Electronic Newsletter

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[The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC](#)

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## Happy New Year!

**Best wishes for 2013!**

## Study: Electronic Braking Systems Save Thousands of Lives

Computer-controlled braking systems in cars and light trucks are saving thousands of lives in the United States, according to a three-year study released by federal safety regulators. It estimated that the technology saved more than 2,200 lives from 2008 through 2010. All new light vehicles manufactured on or after September 1, 2011 are required to have the system. In May, NHTSA proposed a new federal motor vehicle safety standard to require electronic stability control (ESC) systems on large commercial trucks and large buses for the first time. The agency said applying the technology to the heavy-duty fleet could prevent up to 56% of rollover crashes each year and 14% of loss-of-control crashes in those vehicles. Read [more](#).

**If you like our Newsletter, please forward to a friend who could also benefit from it!**



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## Sandy May Spawn Thousands of Lawsuits



The [Wall Street Journal](#) reported that in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, as in the case of many natural disasters, numerous lawsuits are expected to emerge regarding whether insurers are obligated to pay for given damages and losses caused by the storm. However, it could take months or even years before it is known how much litigation has resulted from storm-related insurance disputes, because claims first must be submitted, evaluated and adjusted.

## Auto Accident? There's An App for That

A new, free smartphone app allows you to record car accident and injury information at the scene. Get **At Impact** in the app store.

## Recall Central

To read about recent recalls and product safety news from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, click [here](#).

## New Doctor Learns About Medical Mistakes From the Death of Her Mother

Dr. Elaine Goodman, a graduate of Harvard Medical School and a resident at Brigham & Women's Hospital, says hospital culture must embrace the notion that reporting and tracking medical errors are positive, not punitive, steps: "It's not enough just to have caring, qualified people to keep the patient safe." Read [more](#).

## Energy Drinks Face Scrutiny

The [NY Times](#) reported "The distributor of the top-selling energy 'shot,' 5-Hour Energy, has long claimed on product labels, in promotions and in television advertisements that the concentrated caffeine drink produced 'no crash later' - the type of letdown that consumers of energy drinks often feel when the beverages' effects wear off." However, "an advertising watchdog group said on Wednesday that it had told the company five years ago that the claim was unfounded and had urged it then to stop making it." The article mentions that "the dispute over 5-Hour Energy's claim also comes as regulatory review of the high-caffeine drinks is increasing." The US Food and Drug Administration recently said that it has received reports over the past five years of the possible role of 5-Hour Energy in 13 deaths, although this does not necessarily mean that the product was actually responsible for a death or injury.



Get the latest recall information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [here](#).

The Dept. of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service regulate meat, poultry products and processed eggs. Check their recalls [here](#).

Click [here](#) for Food and Drug Administration recalls, market withdrawals and safety alerts.

For updates on the peanut products recall click [here](#).

## Don't Drive Distracted!

It Kills



[KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com](#)

## Survey: Distracted Driving on the Rise

A new [survey](#) by State Farm Insurance finds the number of people driving distracted by their smart phones has increased dramatically since 2009.

The online survey of 1,000 drivers nationwide found drivers between the ages of 18-29 used the internet 48% of the time while driving, up from 29% in 2009, and read social media sites 36% of the time, up from 21% in 2009. These numbers are moving in the wrong direction.

## About Our Firm



At [The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck](#), justice is our mission. Our firm is well known and well respected for its ability to handle personal injury, wrongful death, and professional malpractice cases in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Call today or visit us on the web at [www.stephenreck.com](#).

### The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC

Proud to support the [North Stonington Education Foundation](#), [Little League Baseball](#), [Children International](#), [Heifer International](#), the [Avalonia Land Conservancy](#), and the [Conn. Chapter of the Special Olympics](#).

\* Advertising Material \*

### Proudly Serving Connecticut and Rhode Island

The trial attorneys at The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC represent individuals in all types of personal injury cases throughout the state of Connecticut and the state of Rhode Island, including, in Connecticut: New London County, New Haven County, Middlesex County, Hartford County, Tolland County, and Windham County; and in Rhode Island: Bristol County, Kent County, Newport County, Providence County, and Washington County.

### Referrals Welcome

**Remember we are here if you need a referral to an attorney in a different area of law.**

