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In this issue, we talk about something West Virginia just happens to see a bit more of than many other states – industrial negligence. Our local economy includes a higher proportion of dangerous job sites. The old Ames Tool Plant was located in a highly residential area. The chemical smoke and gases from the fire are of great concern to us and the people of our community. The warehouse might have contained PVC, nylon, carbon black, titanium dioxide, fiberglass, formaldehyde, Teflon and styrene. We know many of you have questions. Know that we are monitoring this situation closely. Our firm has decades of experience with these sorts of industrial negligence cases. If you have personal concerns, please know we are here for you.

Our second topic, auto accident injuries, is top of mind as we move into the holiday season. Outside of July 4th, this is the second most dangerous time to be on the road. We want you to be safe but also aware. The second article talks about the most common injuries sustained. I also want to stress that there can be late-appearing effects. Delayed symptoms as a result of an injury can make it more difficult to settle a case or claim. Our best advice is get a medical evaluation. If you sign for a release for a settlement shortly after the crash, you will not be able to go back to the insurer for additional

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medical bills. Call us if you have any doubt as to what to do.

Of course, it goes without saying that we are always here to answer your questions. If you'd like to find out more about our unique approach to personal injury cases, please give us a call. There's never an obligation. You can trust us to give you fair and honest advice.

Lastly, if you are traveling over the holidays, be safe!

Sincerely,



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**HOW THE OLD AMES TOOL PLANT
FIRE IN PARKERSBURG MIGHT BE
AFFECTING RESIDENTS' HEALTH**



The burning of the more-than-400,000 square foot facility has swept the news, even becoming a national story and grabbing the attention of consumer advocate Erin Brockovich.

October 24th, a post on Brockovich's Facebook page stated, "The chemical fire at old Ames plant in Parkersburg, West Virginia will burn for several days... I am collecting tons of information... and it's not good. Please stay out of the smoke... if you smell it, you're suffering harm. Take care of your children and pets... this will impact you for weeks to come."

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The fire started on Saturday, October 22 at approximately 12:30 a.m. The following Monday, Governor Jim Justice declared a state of emergency in the county, according to a news release from his office.

Equally as alarming, according to an article in the Charleston Gazette-Mail, two volunteer fire chiefs in Wood County warned nearly a decade ago that they had “extreme concerns” about the potential for a major fire at one of the local warehouses being used to store large amounts of plastics and unknown other products from area chemical plants, state records show.

The warehouse might have contained PVC, nylon, carbon black, titanium dioxide, fiberglass, formaldehyde, Teflon and styrene, according to a list from public officials.



Located in a heavily populated residential area, the chemical smoke, odors, gases and fumes permeated the county. The Wood County Commission strongly advised people to stay indoors to avoid inhaling the smoke, especially people with respiratory issues.

Local residents are rightly concerned about potential threats to their health. Legal fallout from the fire could include public and private nuisance and infliction of emotional distress, physical injury, annoyance and inconvenience, and loss of property value. If exposed, plaintiffs are entitled to fair compensation.

Since 1994, Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law has called the Mid-Ohio Valley home. We love being a part of this community. Like many of you, the fire at the former Ames plant has had an impact on our lives. We understand that many of you may have questions about legal options for injuries resulting from this fire. We are experts in personal injury resulting from negligence. Please feel free to give us a call. Our number is 304-428-8900.

Sources:

<https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/fire-continues-to-burn-at-parkersburg-facility/article007c3008-917a-5e83-9727-76bf3f822d6d.html>

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/progress-on-parkersburg-warehouse-fire-but-questions-remain-about-impacts/article_b46f17f2-1cad-53a3-9e81-0d35451695bf.html

AUTO ACCIDENTS AND THE MOST COMMON INJURIES CAUSED



Car accidents can cause any number of different injuries, to virtually any part of your body, depending on the circumstances of the crash and the severity of the impact. But if you take a closer look at the range of insurance claims and personal injury lawsuits related to auto accidents, you'll see that certain injuries crop up more than others. This article discusses the most common car accident injuries.

Brain and Head Injuries

In a car accident, one of the most common injuries suffered by drivers and passengers is a closed head injury, which can range from a mild concussion to a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Even when there is no physical sign of trauma (i.e., cuts or bruises), the brain is at risk of being jostled inside the skull because of the impact of a car crash, so that bruising and other injuries can result.

Neck Injuries

Another common form of injury from a car accident is neck injuries, which can occur in more mild forms such as whiplash and neck strain, but also as more serious injuries like cervical radiculopathy and disc injury.

Back Injuries

The impact of a car accident and the resulting torque on the bodies of

drivers and passengers can cause back injuries such as a sprain, strain, fracture, disc injury, thoracic spine injury, lumbar radiculopathy, and lumbar spine injury. Like neck injuries, sometimes the symptoms of even the most serious back injuries can take some time to show up after an accident, and just as often a back injury can cause long lasting pain and discomfort.

Psychological Injuries

Injuries caused by car accidents aren't limited to the physical. Especially after serious car accidents involving severe injuries and even loss of life, drivers and passengers may suffer short or long-term psychological injuries such as emotional distress, and may even develop conditions that closely resemble post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD after a car accident.



Steps to take after a car accident

- **Seek a medical evaluation:** The first thing you should do is get looked over – even if only a precautionary examination for injuries potentially sustained at low speed impact or a small damage collision.
- **Contact your Insurance company:** After any car accident, even a minor fender bender, one of the first things you'll need to do once the proverbial dust settles is to contact your car insurance carrier and let them know about the incident. Know that failing to promptly report your accident to your car insurance company violates the terms of your policy and may allow your insurance company to void the policy altogether.
- **Keep a car accident diary to protect your claim:** Maintaining a diary or journal is one of the best ways to track important details and protect your claim. Take pictures of any damage that may be disputed and keep them with your documentation.

Do I need a lawyer?

If you have been injured in a car accident, at some point you will want to consider whether or not you will need to retain an attorney to help you settle your case. Hiring an attorney can be beneficial, mainly because a lawyer will be more knowledgeable and experienced in negotiating with insurance

companies. Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law has decades of practical experience. If you are injured due to no fault of your own, you deserve to receive fair compensation for all of your losses.

Source: <https://www.all-about-car-accidents.com/car-accident-injuries.html>

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Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Personal Injury Claims, Social Security and Veterans Disability for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan as well as one additional office located in Charlotte, North Carolina. But regardless of where you are located we are able to serve you or a family member Nationwide.

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