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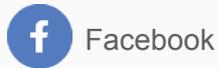
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We are almost a month into 2019. We hope you and your family had a safe and happy holiday season!

This is our first Personal Injury eNews of the New Year. Thank you for subscribing. We will continue to do our best to keep you informed about important issues that impact our community.

Our first article is something we have touched on before, but we can't stop as long as we are seeing cases of people diagnosed with cancer because of DuPont's negligence as it relates to C8 emissions. C8, also known as Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), is a highly toxic chemical once used to make Teflon at the Washington Works plant near Parkersburg, West Virginia. For decades, DuPont committed several egregious coverups that led to a class action suit. But, unfortunately, C8 is difficult to break down in the human body.

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Another important issue is Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). While unfortunate for many NFL players, there has been so much needed and heated conversation around the issue. TBI is also related to car and bike accidents and those that slip and fall – many cases we advocate for as personal injury specialists. It often comes down to corporations, insurance companies and your representation. We're here for the underdog to make sure you get the compensation you deserve. If you ever need personal injury advice, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#). We won't take "no" for an answer.

Sincerely,



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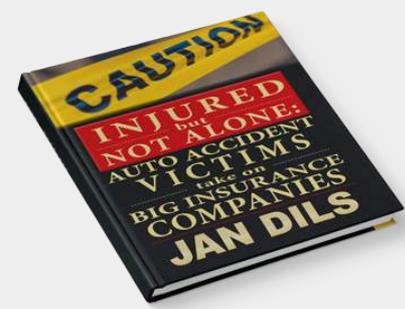
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Every time people in the mid-Ohio River Valley of West Virginia and Ohio drink a glass of water, they may be consuming unsafe amounts of an industrial chemical linked to cancer, birth defects, heart disease and other illness. More than a decade after a threat of emissions of a hazardous substance used at the Washington Works plant became known, government regulators have failed to set enforceable standards to ensure the water is safe – and now, science says the danger may be much greater than either residents or regulators thought.

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), also known as C8, is a highly toxic chemical once used to make Teflon. It was emitted since the 1950s from the DuPont-owned Washington Works plant near Parkersburg, West Virginia.

In 2005, DuPont settled a class-action lawsuit brought on behalf of 70,000 mid-Ohio Valley residents for years of fouling their drinking water. As part of the settlement, DuPont is paying for technology to filter – but not eliminate – the toxin from six area water systems.



Two water systems in the region – Parkersburg and Vienna, West Virginia – were not covered by the 2005 settlement because their PFOA contamination at that time was just under the trigger level. Without benefit of the state-of-the-art filtration technology installed in other systems, water samples taken in Vienna in May 2007 had PFOA levels more than 180 times higher than the new research says is safe, and those taken in Parkersburg were more than 130 times the new safe level.

Sadly, it is too late to fully remove C8 from all the bodies of water and human bloodstreams it now pollutes. C8 can take decades to break down in the human body. As far as scientists can determine, C8 never breaks down and is expected to remain on the planet well after humans are gone from it.

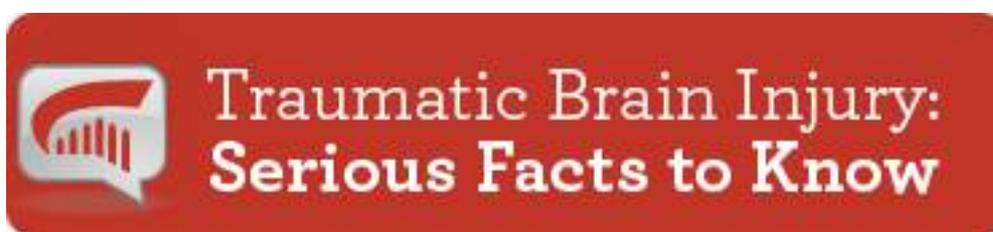
There is some good news about C8: DuPont and the seven other companies that made or used the chemical have all stopped doing so as of 2015. And the EPA now requires testing for the contaminant. However, for those exposed and stricken with cancer, it's too late.

At Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, we have seen and advocated for many people who have been affected by C8, specifically resulting in Kidney Cancer, Testicular Cancer and Ulcerative Colitis. If you believe you or a loved one are a victim due to the carelessness of the DuPont Plant, contact us at jandils.com.

Sources:

<https://www.ewg.org/research/teflon-chemical-harmful-at-smallest-doses>

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/teflon-and-perfluorooctanoic-acid-pfoa.html>



Not Every Fall, Accident or Impact Leads to Traumatic Brain Injury, but if it Does, There Are Some Serious Facts to Know.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) – also known as craniocerebral trauma – is a major cause of death and disability in the United States. In fact, TBIs contribute to about 30% of all injury deaths. Every day, 153 people in the United States die from injuries that include TBI. Those who survive a TBI can face effects that last a few days, or the rest of their lives. Effects of TBI can include impaired thinking or memory, movement, sensation (i.e., vision or hearing), or emotional functioning (i.e., personality changes, depression). These issues not only affect individuals but can have lasting effects on families and communities.

What is a TBI?

A TBI is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head that disrupts the normal function of the brain. Not all blows or jolts to the head result in a TBI. The severity of a TBI may range from “mild” (i.e., a brief change in mental status or consciousness) to “severe” (i.e., an extended period of unconsciousness or memory loss after the injury). Most TBIs that

occur each year are mild, commonly called concussions. Common causes of brain injury include car accidents, slipping and falling, contact sports (i.e., football), non-contact sports (i.e., bicycling), workplace accidents, and assaults or other acts of violence.



How big is the problem?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), TBI impacts as many as 1.4 million Americans a year. Falls accounted for 47% of all TBI-related emergency room visits, hospitalizations and deaths in the United States. Falls disproportionately affect the youngest and oldest age groups:

- More than half (54%) of TBI-related emergency room visits, hospitalizations and deaths among children 0 to 14 years were caused by falls.
- Nearly 4 in 5 (79%) TBI-related ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths in adults aged 65 and older were caused by falls.
- Among all age groups, motor vehicle crashes were the third overall leading cause of TBI-related emergency visits, hospitalizations and deaths (14%). When looking at just TBI-related deaths, motor vehicle crashes were the third leading cause (19%) in 2013.

What to Do If You Suspect a Brain Injury

If you suspect that you or a loved one has suffered a brain injury after an accident, the first thing you should do is get proper medical treatment and advice – even if you think the accident was "minor" or there is no obvious injury to the head. Remember, symptoms of brain injury can take a while to appear. Getting a medical evaluation is also important if you're thinking about bringing a lawsuit for brain injury, as it can help to establish the severity of the harm suffered.

If you think someone is legally liable for your head or brain injury – or even if you're negotiating with an insurance company – don't hesitate to call Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law. Brain injury cases raise complex legal and medical issues, so it's really important to speak with an experienced personal injury firm. Initial consultations are always free and can take place in one of our [six offices](#) or via telephone. Visit our

website at jandils.com or call 877.526.3457.

Sources:

https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/get_the_facts.html

<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/brain-injury-lawsuits-32219.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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