

The Straight Talk

STRAIGHT TALK

LAW

Happy Holidays

From Premier Law Group & Straight Talk Law



Preparing for the Worst Winter in 55 Years

December
2010

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December Calendar:

- 12/2: **Hanukah Begins**
- 12/21: **Winter Begins**
- 12/24: **Christmas Eve**
- 12/25: **Christmas Day**
- 12/26: **Kwanza Begins**
- 12/31: **New Years Eve**

3 Ways to Win a Starbucks Gift Card!!

See pages 2, 3 and 4 for details!

As we prepare for winter, experts are warning that this year may be the worst winter Washington has experienced in 55 years. This winter will be a La Nina winter, which generally brings colder, wetter and windier weather. La Nina is caused by unusually cold ocean temperatures which trigger an increased production in clouds leading to stormy weather. La Nina doesn't only mean increased snowfall, but more rain, just like the rainfall that flooded Chehalis, shutting down Interstate 5 in December of 2007. Here are a few tips to help prepare you for the stormy winter that lies ahead.

Wiper Blades:

Make sure your windshield wiper blades are in proper working condition. Your wiper blades should remove all water in its path if they are working properly. You may also consider purchasing winter wiper blades which are made to handle higher amounts of precipitation. You can get these blades at any auto parts store, and they will put the new blades on your vehicle.



Keep Your Car in Good Repair:

Make sure your car has been serviced recently. Check your fluids, particularly the anti-freeze. Get your oil changed regularly, and even consider using winter oil in your car which is built to withstand lower temperatures.

Keep an emergency kit :

It should include a flashlight, and flares, non perishable food such as granola bars and extra bottles of water. Blankets and spare clothing are also good to have so you may keep warm.

Check Your Tires:

Winter tires are essential for the increased precipitation

as they provide better traction on wet and slick roads. Use this tire selection guide to help ensure your vehicle is running properly.

Tire Selection Guide:

I know quite a few of us living in Western Washington use all-weather tires since the weather is typically mild enough to avoid buying a separate set. With this winter gearing up to be wet, cold and stormy, however, I suggest everyone look into the different options available and check their tread to make sure they have plenty of traction on the winter roads.

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Police Blotter

11/19/2010

A fatal auto accident resulted near Hood Canal Bridge when a 31-year-old man ran a stop sign, causing a collision with another vehicle. The at-fault driver was rushed to the hospital, but later died from his injuries.

11/17/2010

An elderly woman was struck and killed by a dump truck as she walked down Cherry Street in downtown Seattle. The driver of the truck immediately called 911, but when help arrived the woman had already passed. Witnesses said it appeared the pedestrian didn't notice the trailer behind the truck when she was struck.

11/17/2010

A Seattle University student was taken to Harborview after flipping her vehicle up-side-down. The 24-year-old was speeding at the time of the collision and failed to navigate properly near the Mercer Street on ramp.

11/15/2010

One man died and another sustained serious injury when the car they were in veered off the road in Greenwood, and struck a wooden pole. The two men were apparently taking the car for a test drive and driving in excess of the speed limit when the accident occurred. Both were rushed to Harborview Medical Center where the driver later died of his injuries.

11/10/2010

Whidbey-Sea Tac Shuttle caused a 5-car-accident when it failed to stop, hitting a vehicle in front of it, causing a chain reaction. Nobody was seriously injured in the accident.

11/10/2010

A 56-year-old Raymond, Washington woman was hit by a car as she pulled a dead deer off of Highway 6 in Pacific County. She was struck in the head by the mirror of a passing car and airlifted to Tacoma General with serious head injuries

11/10/2010

A woman was killed when her car

smashed into a utility pole at over

100 mph, killing the woman instantly and breaking the car into two pieces.

**11/8/2010**

A drunk driver headed northbound on Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Seattle drove off the road and smashed into a bus shelter. After crashing the driver backed out of the building, spun around and then came to a halt. The driver was taken to Harborview Medical Center for treatment, his female passenger sustained only minor injuries.

10/28/2010

A drunk driver with a BAC of .28% ran over 5 pedestrians as they crossed an unmarked crosswalk in Seattle. The vehicle had several partially drank and empty beer



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*FREE Starbucks Gift Card!!!



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*contestants will be entered into a drawing to win the Starbucks Gift Card.
There will only be one winner.

Believe it or not, winter tires and summer tires are not simply a marketing ploy to make you spend more money—the tires are built differently and function better in certain conditions. Summer tires have less tread and do better on dry, warm surface, while winter tires have thicker tread and are able to grip wet or slick surfaces. All-weather tires get good performance in many weather conditions, but do not perform well when the weather is at its worst, so you may consider getting a set of winter tires to prepare for the approaching cold.

What level of tread?

The legal tread requirement is 2/32", meaning you need to have more than 2/32" thickness of tread left on your tire. If you are driving in harsh weather conditions, however, 2/32" of tread is not adequate.

For rainy or wet roads at 4/32" of tread you need to replace your tires so you will have adequate traction on the slick roads.

On snowy or icy roads you should replace your tires when the tread gets down to 6/32".

How Do You Measure Tread?

If you don't have a tire tread depth gauge, some spare change will do just the trick.

Dry Weather:
2/32" can be measured by making sure Lincoln's head is always covered when a penny is turned upside down.



Rainy Roads:
4/36"-put a quarter up-side down in the tire tread... if Washington's head is covered you are good to go.



Snow:
6/36" using an up-side-down penny, if the top of the Lincoln memorial is covered your tires are still acceptable for snowy weather



Holiday Christmas Light Contest!



We want to see your lights!
Send pictures of your holiday light display for a chance to win a
\$20 Starbucks Gift Card!
Best entry wins!

Check Us Out Online at:

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TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How many gifts are there total in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song?

First person to email the correct answer to Bailie@plg-pllc.com will win a Starbucks gift card!!



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Holiday Give-Away Contest

Do you know someone that deserves a great Christmas?

Jason Clause wants to help YOU give a special person a special gift. Simply tell us...

- Who you would give the gift to
- Why they deserve a special Christmas gift
- What gift you would like to give them up to \$100.00



Whoever tugs at Jason Clause's heart the most will receive that special gift.

Send Requests to: bailie@plg-pllc.com
Deadline: December 15th

This newsletter is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and small business issues. It is not intended to be legal advice.