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CRPS BRINGS ON

unbearable pain

If you have severe pain to your arms or legs, you may have Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, or CRPS. This is a serious condition, usually caused by some form of damage to the nervous system. If you have this condition, you may feel pain or burning sensation, muscle weakness or sensitivity to touch. The affected area may also have a slight change in color or a loss of hair.



CRPS is very difficult to diagnose. Doctors often mistake this condition for something else or simply think that their patients are exaggerating their symptoms. It is also very difficult to treat. People who suffer from this disease often feel lonely, frustrated or embarrassed. At times they find comfort with support groups.

CRPS can be caused by a specific accident, such as striking your hands against the ground when trying to protect yourself from a fall. It can also be caused by constant and repetitive motion. The injury does not have to be serious. For these reasons, CRPS injuries are often part of work-related injury claims. If you have CRPS that was caused by a work injury or exposure, you may be entitled to workers' compensation benefits.

Your Biggest Accident Could Be Your Choice of Attorney



children and motor vehicle accidents

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 150 children between ages 0 and 19 are treated *every hour* in emergency departments for injuries sustained in motor vehicle crashes and *more children ages 5 to 19 die from crash-related injuries than from any other type of injury.*

One of the best ways to help keep your children safe in vehicles is to know and understand the appropriate age, height and weight limits for car seats, booster seats and seat belt use:

Birth up to Age 2 – For the best possible protection, infants and children should be buckled in a rear-facing car seat, in the back seat, until age 2 or when they reach the upper weight or height limit of their seat.

Age 2 up to at least Age 5 – When children outgrow their rear-facing seat they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat, in the back seat, until at least age 5 or when they reach the upper weight or height limit of their seat.

Age 5 up until seat belts fit properly – Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat they should be buckled in a belt positioning booster seats until seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck).

Back Seat is Safest. All children aged 12 and under should be properly buckled in the back seat. Airbags can kill young children riding in the front seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an air bag. Buckle children in the middle of the back seat when possible, because it is the safest spot in the vehicle. ■

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autos have black boxes, too

When there's a plane crash, chances are you'll hear about the black box—the flight-event recorder that documents key information, enabling crash investigators to piece together what happened.

Most cars on the roadways have the same thing—minus the video and audio—which are known as event data recorders (EDR). In 2014, Congress mandated that all new vehicles have them, although most manufacturers had already been installing them prior to that.

EDRs were first utilized in the 1990s to monitor the actions of airbags during accidents. They have grown in functionality since then, and now record over 30 different types of data, such as seatbelt usage, speed, changes in velocity, brake status, seat position, and roll angles, among others. Some EDRs even have sensors under the seats to gauge the weight of the occupants, which may come in handy when there's a dispute over who was driving the vehicle.



There are two types of data recordings: deployment events and nondeployment events. If the airbags deploy, data is permanently saved just prior to, during, and following the accident (about 20 seconds' worth). If the airbags do not deploy, the information is stored for only a limited amount of time before being "overwritten."

EDRs have become invaluable in reconstructing accidents. Crash investigators no longer need to work around the hazy recollections of a driver or passengers, and black-box information can serve as powerful evidence in refuting or substantiating expert witnesses' re-creation of a collision.

If you've been involved in an auto accident, contact an auto accident attorney to help you obtain and preserve black-box evidence, to prove liability, and to protect your rights.

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According to the National Weather Service, heat is the number one weather-related killer in the United States, and it results in hundreds of deaths each year. Surprisingly, excessive heat claims more lives on average each year than other seemingly more sinister weather events such as floods, lightning, tornadoes, and hurricanes combined.

Parked Cars, and Warm Temps – a Bad Mix

Leaving children or animals alone in parked vehicles is never a good idea, but it's especially dangerous on warm days. Dozens of children die each year after being left unattended (knowingly or not) in vehicles, sometimes even when they are left for just a short amount of time. The temperature inside a vehicle – even on a day that's just 80 degrees – can rise to levels well over 120 degrees in a matter of minutes, leading to heat stroke once the child's body can't cool itself down. This applies to animals too – if it's unsafe for humans, it's unsafe for animals too.

Save a life. Call 911 immediately if you see a child or an animal left unattended in a vehicle. ■

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menace at the beach

(NO, NOT SHARKS)

Eighty percent of beach rescues performed by lifeguards result from swimmers getting caught in rip currents. Rip currents are powerful, channeled currents of water that flow away from the shore, back out to sea. They account for over 100 deaths per year at U.S. beaches.

Rip currents typically form at low spots or breaks in sandbars, or near structures such as jetties and piers. When waves break strongly in some locations close to shore and weakly in others, the risk of dangerous rip currents is

elevated. Their strength and speed is influenced by wave height and the frequency of wave formation.

Most rip currents travel at 1-2 feet per second; however, the strongest ones surge at speeds as high as 8 feet per second—faster than an Olympic swimmer can sprint. Rip currents frequently dissipate just beyond the line of breaking waves, but some may extend hundreds of yards offshore. Most are narrow—less than 80 feet wide—but occasionally can be broader, to well over 100 yards.

If you find yourself ensnared by a rip current, remain as calm as possible. Do not fight against the current. Since most rip currents are narrow, swim parallel to the shoreline until you escape its grip, then head back to shore. If you can't, calmly tread water or float until it weakens. If you know you are still in trouble, face the shore, wave your arms, and yell for help.

Rip currents can occur at any beach with breaking waves, including the Great Lakes. Swim at lifeguardprotected beaches to improve your survival chances should rip-current trouble arise.

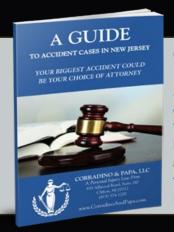
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August 8th – National Happiness Happens Day August 2nd - National Coloring Book Day

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Quote of the Month: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." –Mark Twain

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10-minute ice cream pie

Looking for a fun dessert project for the kids? You will love this 10-Minute Ice Cream Pie recipe!

Ingredients

- half gallon (2 quarts) favorite ice cream or sorbet
- 1 (9 inch) pre-made cookie or graham cracker crust
- Favorite toppings (chocolate chips, chocolate syrup (or Magic Shell), sprinkles, chopped fruit, candy bars, etc.)

Directions

Let ice cream thaw until slightly soft and scoop-able. Then gently spread a layer in the pie crust, approximately 1" thick. Add in a light layer of toppings on top. Then add one more 1" thick layer of ice cream, and add more toppings on top. Freeze the pie until it is firm again, then slice and serve. (Top with whipped cream if you'd like.)

Ingredient Combination Ideas

- Mint Chocolate Chip: Mint chocolate-chip ice cream, Oreo crust, chocolate chips, chocolate syrup, chocolate bar shavings
- Mocha: Coffee ice cream, Oreo crust, chocolate syrup, chocolate-covered espresso beans
- Strawberry Banana: Strawberry (or any fruit) ice cream, graham-cracker crust, chopped strawberries and bananas (or other fresh fruits)
- Toffee Caramel: Toffee ice cream, graham-cracker crust, crushed Heath Bar bits, caramel topping, chocolate syrup
- Caramel Peach: Peach or vanilla ice cream, graham-cracker crust, caramel sauce, diced peaches (all the better if caramelized!)









