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FALL 2017

THE VAUGHAN LAW REPORT

Concussions and Student Athletes

More than 38 million boys and girls, ages 5–18, participate in organized sports across the country. Playing a sport is a fun way to socialize and reinforce values such as teamwork and perseverance, but it also means potential injuries.

Concussions are one of the most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities. It is caused by a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to slam against the interior of the skull. Even seemingly mild bumps to the head can cause a concussion.

When schools and athletic associations don't have or follow concussion-management plans, players can sustain life-altering injuries. In 2014, a former Illinois high school football player filed a class-action lawsuit against the Illinois High School Association, claiming that he suffers serious memory loss and migraines due to the many concussions he incurred as a high school football player. The suit, though later dropped, sought to reform policy and did not seek damages.

To help raise awareness of concussions and proper concussion protocol, the CDC has developed the Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports campaign. It includes practical, easy-to-use information for coaches, sports administrators, athletes, and parents. For more information, visit cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports.

Signs of a Concussion Include:

- One pupil larger than the other.
- Drowsiness or inability to wake up.
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away.
- Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination.
- Repeated vomiting, nausea, convulsions, or seizures (shaking or twitching).
- Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation.
- Loss of consciousness (passed out/knocked out).

Source: CDC Newsroom

Keep Your Kids Safe on the Road

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), a child under 13 is involved in a car crash every 33 seconds. These crashes are a leading cause of death for children in the United States. **Here are guidelines for choosing a seat that fits your child:**

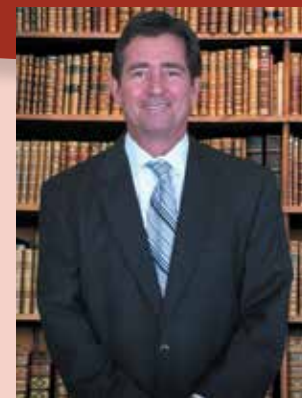
Rear-facing car seat, birth–approximately 3 years—Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, they are ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.

Forward-facing car seat, approximately 4–7 years—Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

Booster seat, approximately 8–12 years—Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seatbelt properly. For a seatbelt to fit properly, the lap belt must be positioned snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should fit snugly across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember, your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

Seat belt, 8–12 years—When your child is ready to use a seatbelt without a booster, be sure that the belt fits properly. The lap belt should fit snugly across the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt should fit snugly across the shoulder and chest. The back seat is the safest spot for kids to ride.

Source: safercar.gov



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CONSTRUCTION ZONE *Roadway Safety Signage and Protocol*

Construction zones may not be open to public traffic but still require roadways and safety rules to control the flow of traffic and create a safe environment for workers. Like public roads, construction sites must have roadways with safety rules and signage. When they don't, injuries—and deaths—can occur. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reported an average of 669 deaths in construction zones each year between 2007 and 2012, 69 percent from construction vehicles striking workers.

According to safety standards developed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, when establishing a construction zone, companies are responsible for ensuring the safety of workers by providing:

- **Traffic control:** Traffic patterns should be established by construction project managers and should be communicated with approved signs, cones, barrels, and barriers. Drivers and pedestrians must be able to see and understand the proper routes.
- **Work-zone protections:** Various concrete, water, sand, and collapsible barriers; crash cushions; and truck-mounted attenuators should be used to keep outside traffic away from construction work zones.
- **Lights:** Lighting for workers on foot and for equipment operators should be at least 5 foot-candles or greater (foot-candles are a measure of light intensity). Where available lighting is not sufficient, flares or chemical lighting should be used. Glare should be controlled or eliminated.
- **Safe vehicles:** Seatbelts and rollover protection should be used on equipment and vehicles as the manufacturer recommends.

Source: osha.gov

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Consumer Recalls

From drawer pulls to ATVs, products that you use every day may be defective. Be sure that none of these products are in use at your house:

Barnes & Noble power adapters (sold with NOOK Tablet 7)

The power adapter casing can break when plugged into an electrical outlet, exposing its metal prongs and posing an electric-shock hazard. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled power adapters and register online for a free replacement adapter along with a Barnes & Noble \$5 gift card.

Contact: **877-886-5025; barnesandnoble.com**, click on "Product Recalls" at the bottom of the page.

Polaris Recalls Sportsman 570 All-Terrain Vehicles

The recalled ATVs have one or two seats with four or six tires. "Sportsman" and the model type are printed on the side of the steering column, and "Polaris" is printed near the front grill.

The ATVs were sold in several colors. The vehicle identification numbers (VIN) are printed on the front or rear frame near the back tire. Recalled VIN numbers are at polaris.com. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled ATVs and contact Polaris to schedule a free repair. Polaris is contacting all known purchasers directly.

Contact: **800-765-2747; polaris.com**, click on "Off-Road Safety Recalls" at the bottom of the page.

STIHL gas-powered chain saws

This recall involves STIHL MS 461 gas-powered chain saws, and the MS 461 R chain saw with a wrap handle. STIHL Inc. has received 117 reports of pinched or leaking fuel lines. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled chain saws and return them to an authorized STIHL dealer for a free inspection and free repair.

Contact: **800-233-4729; stihlrecall@stihl.us; stihlusa.com**, click on "Information" and then "Product Recalls."

Source: cpsc.gov