

November 2011 Newsletter

We take a look back at Florida news from 2011, and ahead to the holidays and upcoming events of 2012 . . .

Orlando working to increase emphasis on safe environment for pedestrians



For the last three years Orlando has gained a reputation around the country as having roads that aren't pedestrian-friendly, even being named top spot in [ABC News'](#) "Top 10 Most Dangerous US Cities for Pedestrians." With the number of pedestrian deaths caused [by cars](#) being disproportionately high to the number of pedestrians around the city, Orlando mayor Buddy Dyer has kicked off the first phase of new programs to improve this situation.

"Orlando Walks" is a city project to lay new sidewalks around the city. The first phase will bring 18 miles of new city sidewalks, beginning with areas closest to schools, parks, bus routes, and retail locations, reports [West Orlando News](#). This construction will contribute to greater safety for pedestrians, drivers, and [bicyclists](#) around the city. Phase 1 kicked off on November 11, 2011, and the project is expected to continue through 2012.

Preparing your family for safe holiday travels

As the holidays approach, we all look forward to spending time with friends and family. If you are going to be traveling during this special season, you should be prepared in case of any emergencies.

By Car: Car travel is still America's most popular method, and millions take to the highways in November and December. When you pack up for the road trip, don't forget a few key items:

- In case of an [accident](#), make sure you have your [insurance card and agent contact information](#). Remember: you can document an accident [using your cell phone](#) with pictures or recorded witness statements.
- Getting lost can sour any road trip, so don't leave home without [directions, a map, or a GPS](#).
- Your [medical insurance card and information](#) can help you avoid [health insurance](#) disputes with out-of-town treatment. Make sure you also have a current [Certificate of Health](#) from your vet for your family pet in case your pet is injured or involved in a [bite injury](#).
- Be prepared for local weather! You might need an [ice scraper](#), [snowbrush](#), [antifreeze](#), or extra windshield wiper fluid, depending on where your travels take you.

By Plane: Plane travel is one of the quickest ways to arrive at your destination. Make sure you visit the Travel Security Administration (TSA) [website](#) for a list of currently prohibited items, and packing and travel tips. To be safe at the airport:

- Wear shoes with good traction to avoid [slip-and-fall](#) injuries.
- Be aware of construction zones to avoid [accidents](#) and delays.
- On the plane, be careful with the overhead bins when stowing luggage. Be sure to secure belongings overhead or under the seat to avoid trip hazards or [injuries from falling items](#).

As a Host: Many friends and family may want to visit you, because of Florida's desirable location as a destination - especially this time of year! If your visitors are driving in, you can help prepare them with information on Florida's [seat belt](#) and [no-fault insurance](#) laws. If your visitors are flying in, you can provide them with information about [Orlando International Airport](#) to help make their trip smooth and relaxed.



Some visitors may take advantage of the opportunity to visit theme parks, resorts, the beach, or other local [entertainment](#), which are part of the huge draw of Florida's tourist attractions and a great chance to enjoy time with your family. While theme parks and other tourist attractions are generally very safe, some of the rides do inherently pose risks, and other personal injuries can occur.

If you or a loved one suffer an accident during the holiday season, seek necessary medical treatment as soon as possible. File an injury report with the proper management, and obtain copies of all documents for your insurance, disability, or personal injury claim.

The Coye Law Firm wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Defective products at the holidays

Holiday festivities include exchanging many gifts with friends and loved ones. One of the last things you think will happen - because no one wants it to happen - is to see one of these gifts flawed or defective. Merchandise that was incorrectly assembled or otherwise doesn't meet "passing" quality standards for its company is known as [defective merchandise](#), and sometimes it can make it past quality assurance inspectors and to a consumer's home.

If you receive a holiday gift which is flawed in some way, contact the manufacturer for a replacement. Generally, manufacturer warranties will allow for an exchange or replacement of merchandise that is defective. If you do not notice the defect in a product immediately, and something is damaged or someone is injured in the process of using the product, seek appropriate medical attention. [The process](#) to handle a defective product claim can become complex, depending on the merchandise and situation. Keep the item and all its pieces, packaging, instructions, and accessories. Take photos or video of the damage or injury, and obtain copies of any police or medical reports. This documentation will be useful when discussing the situation during the claims process to show insurance companies, representatives from the manufacturer, and your product liability attorney.



Christina Cisney, case manager, graduates from UCF with Bachelor's in legal studies

Case manager Christina Cisney, has been assisting in the Coye Law Firm worker's compensation department since February of this year. In December, she will graduate from the University of Central Florida with her Bachelor's degree in legal studies. "I want to thank my Mom and Dad especially for all their support," she says.



After studying in the medical magnet program at Apopka High School, and pursuing studies in Heath Science at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, Christina realized that her passion for helping people could be equally well utilized in the legal field. Her interests are varied, so she is considering several options for the specific area of law she would like to study. Christina has plans to take a short break from schoolwork before beginning an independent study in January to prepare for the LSATs next summer. She will be applying to law schools for the fall 2013 semester and would like to stay local. Currently thinking of applying to the University of Florida, Barry University, FAMU, and Stetson University, she is still conducting research about the various programs to ensure she chooses wisely.

Christina is excited about entering this next phase in her life, and equally excited about the celebratory graduation trip she is taking to Europe next month. With plans to visit England, France, and Italy, the problem now is to decide where to spend her New Year's Eve. "I'm looking forward to the changes that 2012 will bring to my life. I'm looking forward to beginning the next chapter and seeing what the future brings."



The Coye Law Firm continues to represent consumers and employees in their claims for [personal injury](#), [workers compensation](#), and [Social Security disability](#) benefits. Call our offices today at [800-648-4941](tel:800-648-4941) to speak with someone who can evaluate your situation and determine if we can help you with your claim.

To learn more about our firm & practice areas, visit coyelow.com or coyelowdisabilitycenter.com

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