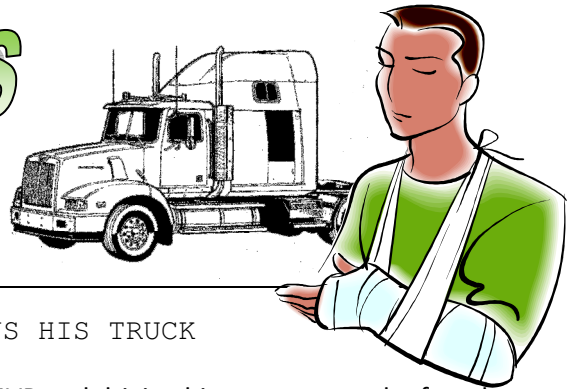


REAL LIFE LESSONS

FROM TRUCK DRIVERS INJURED AT WORK



DRIVER SWERVES TO AVOID DEER AND OVERTURNS HIS TRUCK

Seth has been a professional driver for 10 years. His clean MVR and driving history support the fact that he is a good driver, but on the night of October 13th of last year his “good driving” history came to an end. Early in the evening of that moon lit night Seth was driving along a secondary road in the beautiful Pennsylvania countryside. It was one of those very enjoyable trips with little pressure from dispatch and excellent road conditions – the type of situation that almost lulls a driver into a daydream. BUT THEN THERE IT WAS! Right in front of his truck was a small deer staring straight at Seth. Without any hesitation he jerked hard on the steering wheel and attempted to brake. This evasive action was taken so quickly that Seth did not have time to think about checking his mirrors for the presence of following traffic, nor to even select his escape route off the hardtop. When he regained consciousness at the hospital all he remembered was staring at the small deer and trying desperately to not hit it.

LIFE LESSON

Seth sustained several lacerations and contusions - a few ribs were broken as well as his right wrist. But he was a very, very lucky person because this type of motor vehicle accident all too often results in a fatality. With this incident embedded in Seth’s mind, it is likely that he will not soon forget the following life lesson.

At times while driving it is necessary to react so quickly that there is no time for considering options. One must do something immediately. Swerving to avoid wildlife is one example. However, the safer reaction is to place both hands on the steering wheel and then brake. Do not attempt to steer away from the animal. Evasive action at higher speeds too often results in a controlled crash, which will always involve you (the driver) and may also include other motorists, pedestrians or even individuals inside adjacent buildings. The wild animal most often will simply jump out of the way (they are better equipped for evasive action – it’s a natural survival instinct).

Killing or maiming an animal with a vehicle strike is sad, but not near as sad as killing or maiming a human.

The property damage to a commercial truck pales in comparison to the potential expense of a personal injury. Busting out a headlight is temporary and moderately priced. Losing one’s vision as the result of a motor vehicle accident is permanent and can not be assigned a dollar value.



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