



# Georgia Summer Travel Safety Tips

As summer approaches, many people are already planning their summer vacations. However, traveling during the summer or over a holiday weekend can be stressful.

Our experienced Georgia personal injury lawyers share some important summer travel safety tips.

## Secure Your Home

This travel safety tip is one of the most important because your home is your haven. Many homes have some type of security system, including cameras, motion detectors, and alarms. If your home has a security system, make sure you arm it before you leave. If you do not have a security system, consider asking a neighbor, friend, or family member to keep an eye on your home while you're away.

To prevent someone from stealing your mail or noticing that you're away because the mail is piling up, have a trusted relative or friend come by to collect it while you're gone. Or, you can have your local post office hold your mail until you return.



When away from your home for an extended amount of time, you may not want to announce to your entire Facebook friend list that you are out of town – especially if you are connected to people you don't know well or your profile is set to public. Save the vacation photo posts for after you have returned home.

Travel Continued on Page 2

# 8 Motorcycle Safety Tips for Georgia Riders

According to Traffic Safety Marketing, part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, motorcyclists make up 15% of all traffic fatalities. So, what should motorcyclists do to protect themselves while riding? Below are a few tips.

## 1. Make Sure Other Drivers Can See You

A motorcycle is much smaller than a car or truck on the road. If you wear dark clothes, you may blend in with the street and other vehicles. Instead, wear bright or neon clothing. It will help to catch the attention of other drivers.

It's also important to use your headlights when it's dark or if it starts raining.

## 2. Get Routine Motorcycle Inspections

Before hitting the roads, ensure your motorcycle is in good condition.

To remember what to inspect, the Georgia Department of Driver Services tells motorcyclists to follow the T-CLOCS acronym:

Safety Continued on Page 2

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- PAGE 2 - Continued Articles: Summer Travel Safety and Motorcycle Tips
- PAGE 3 - 7 Common Truck Accident Injuries
- PAGE 3- Guide to Filing a Personal Injury Claim in Georgia

## Travel Continued

### Service Your Car

Driving is a standard mode of transportation for summer travel. If you plan on traveling by vehicle, it's important your car is operational.

Take your vehicle to your local mechanic and have them run a full diagnostic, including the following:

- Brake check
- Tire pressure
- Coolant
- Transmission
- Engine
- Spark plugs
- Battery health

Consider investing in roadside assistance or an automatic vehicle accident detection service such as OnStar, which uses built-in vehicle sensors to detect a crash and send a message to emergency personnel. It also allows you to connect with a specialist if you get a flat tire or run out of gas on a vacant road.

Always be vigilant, especially on the road.

### Have a Travel Plan

No matter how you are traveling,



know where you're going and how to get there. Apps such as Waze or Google Maps can help you navigate unknown territories and redirect you when there are unexpected accidents or road detours.

Book your hotel accommodation early and confirm your reservation beforehand to avoid any issues. Don't forget to book transport to and from the airport or train station.

### Avoid Driver Fatigue

Getting overtired can be a serious issue for travelers, especially for drivers. Driver fatigue can cause severe crashes on the roadways. One second of not looking at the road can cause a crash with catastrophic injuries or fatalities.

Fatigue can also contribute to slow response times or impaired judgment, which can cause a collision.

*Read the Full Article on our Blog at [bbga.com](http://bbga.com).*

## Safety Continued

T – tires and wheels

C – controls

L – lights

O – oil

C – chassis

Remember to get your motorcycle checked periodically throughout the year by a maintenance company or the service center at the dealership.

### 3. Wear Protective Gear

If you're an avid motorcyclist, you probably know "ATGATT" means "all the gear, all the time."

Georgia law requires all motorcyclists to wear an approved helmet.

Your brain is the most crucial organ in your body. Helmets protect your head from injury in the event of a motorcycle crash.

Georgia law also requires all motorcycles be equipped with a windshield. If not, motorcyclists must have an approved eye-protective device.

You should also consider wearing clothes that cover your skin to lessen the chance of skin injuries in a collision.

### 4. Watch the Weather

You can't control the weather, but you can control whether you ride your motorcycle in bad weather conditions.

Poor weather conditions can increase the chance of traffic crashes. It can be hard to see in the rain and also more difficult for other drivers to see you. Strong winds can also make it harder to control and steer a motorcycle.

*Read the Full Article on our Blog at [bbga.com](http://bbga.com).*

**5th Annual Elder Abuse Litigation Seminar**

October 24  
Hotel Avalon, Alpharetta

**Registration Opening Soon.**

[bbga.com](http://bbga.com)  
706-354-4000

# 7 Common Truck Accident Injuries

Because of their large size and weight, semi-truck accidents can potentially cause catastrophic injuries.

Below we list some common truck accident injuries.

## 1. Amputation

Traumatic amputation injuries are defined as the loss of a body part because of an accident or other personal injury. Amputations can be complete or incomplete.

## 2. Bone Fractures

Bones can break from the force of the collision, from being struck by an object, or from being crushed in an accident.

## 3. Burns

A truck collision can cause burns if

fire is involved or there is a chemical spill. Symptoms of burns depend on the degree of the burn.

## 4. Internal Bleeding

You can sustain internal bleeding in a truck collision from blunt force trauma or a sudden jolt.

## 5. Lacerations

In a truck wreck, lacerations can be caused by sharp objects slashing the skin. Deep lacerations may affect nerves, tendons, and muscles, and require surgical treatment.

## 6. Traumatic Brain Injury

A hit to the head, a violent swing, or penetration of an object can cause a traumatic brain injury. Depending on the severity, a traumatic brain injury

can be temporary or can cause permanent damage.

## 7. Spinal Cord Injury

The spinal cord runs from the base of the head and down the back. It is a collection of nerves communicating to the brain and the rest of the body by sending and receiving signals. The spinal cord is encased in and protected by the vertebral column.

Our seasoned Georgia truck accident attorneys have experience representing clients who have been injured in a truck crash through no fault of their own.

We fight to hold all negligent parties responsible.

## Guide to Filing a Personal Injury Claim in Georgia



When someone's negligence causes you harm, it can throw off your entire life.

You have to face the physical and emotional toll of an injury. Plus, you have to navigate the complicated personal injury claims process.

Below, the attorneys at Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley, P.C. describe the basic steps for how to file a personal injury claim in Georgia. These steps may vary depending on the extent of your injuries and the nature of your potential personal in-

jury claim.

Consulting with a Georgia-based personal injury attorney will put you in the best position for a lawsuit.

### How to File a Personal Injury Claim in Georgia

Below are general steps for how to file a personal injury claim in Georgia. You may think that filing a personal injury claim starts with writing and submitting a lawsuit. However, there are several things you'll need to do before filing a lawsuit in court.

#### Seek Medical Treatment

Your health comes first. You should immediately seek medical care after an injury. You might be taken to the hospital immediately. Sometimes, however, you may not feel the full effects of an injury after a car crash or a slip and fall because your adrenaline is racing.

You should seek medical treatment

right away, regardless. This is important for your physical well-being but also, medical records that demonstrate your injuries are essential in any personal injury case. If you wait too long to seek treatment, the defendant will likely claim that your injuries happened after the incident—and not because of it.

#### Gather Evidence

You should gather evidence before you file a personal injury claim.

Evidence that you'll need includes:

- Medical records
- Witness statements
- Police reports
- Photographic evidence
- Medical bill receipts
- A statement

The evidence you need may be different depending on your particular case. An experienced attorney can help.

*Read the Full Article on our Blog at [bbga.com](http://bbga.com).*



Attorneys at Law

BLASINGAME ▸ BURCH  
GARRARD ▸ ASHLEY, P.C.

440 College Avenue • Suite 320 • Athens, GA 30601 • P.O. Box 832 • Athens, GA 30603

## BBGA PERSONAL INJURY TEAM



Lee Atkinson



Henry Garrard



Drew Hill



Thomas Hollingsworth



Alex Hughes



Evan Jones



Jim Matthews



Chase Ruffin



Mary M. Russell



Josh Wages



## PERSONAL INJURY AREAS OF PRACTICE

DEFECTIVE & DANGEROUS PRODUCTS  
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE  
NURSING HOME ABUSE & NEGLECT  
CAR ACCIDENTS  
TRUCK ACCIDENTS  
WRONGFUL DEATH  
UNSAFE ROADS  
PREMISES LIABILITY  
DAYCARE ABUSE

706-354-4000

[bbga.com](http://bbga.com)