

THE WARREN REPORT

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January 2021

THE DANGERS OF

BLACK ICE



Winter weather often brings snow and ice, both of which can be tricky for drivers and pedestrians. However, black ice may be the most formidable foe for winter travelers. Despite its name, black ice is completely clear, allowing you to see the roads and sidewalks under it. Most times, you never see it coming.

It is important to contact a personal injury lawyer right away if you or someone you care about has been injured in a slip-and-fall or car accident that possibly resulted from the negligence of another party. There are many nuances with proving fault when it comes to ice so it is best to retain the expertise of a [winter] seasoned lawyer!

FOUR SAFETY TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY SAFE THIS WINTER

1. **Wear proper footwear and shuffle when you can!** Wear shoes that fit well and have good traction. This, along with shuffling your feet (think penguin walk), can keep you steadily grounded.
2. **Like traction for your shoes, make sure you have the right tires for your car!** Black ice can be deadly on the roads. If you anticipate a snowy winter, look into getting snow tires. These will provide the best grip on icy days.
3. **Keep an eye out for black ice.** Before getting in your car or going out for a walk, look at the pavement. If the pavement is dry but you see spots that look glossy or dark, it's probably black ice. Common places you'll find black ice are tree-covered roadways or sidewalks (less direct sunlight), bridges, and overpasses.
4. **Drive extra cautiously.** If you suspect there may be black ice on the roads, here are some precautions to take: 1. Keep at least a 5-second following distance from the car in front of you. 2. Do not slam on your brakes – that can result in loss of traction and skidding. 3. Do not over-correct if you feel your car sliding.

SUPER BOWL QUESO DIP

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 lb. hot or regular pork sausage, casing removed
- 3/4 cup Pale Ale beer or your favorite type of beer (non-alcoholic beer works too!)
- 16 oz. Velveeta cut into 1" cubes
- 1/2 cup shredded Pepper Jack cheese
- 1 can Rotel Tomatoes, undrained 14.5 ounce can
- 1 cup black beans drained and rinsed
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- Salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start by browning the sausage in a medium skillet over medium heat. Use a wooden spatula to crumble and turn the sausage as it cooks.
2. Once the sausage is cooked through, add in the beer and allow to cook down/reduce for 3-4 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Stir in the Velveeta and shredded Pepper Jack. It should take about 3-5 minutes for all the cheese to melt in. Once melted, stir in the tomatoes, beans, and cilantro.

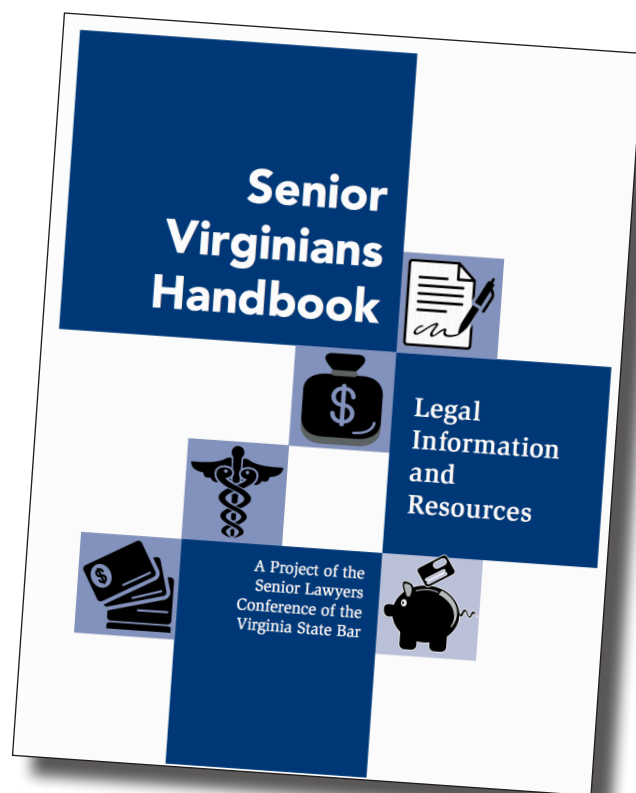


Senior Virginians Handbook

The Virginia State Bar has released a handbook covering legal information and general resources for senior Virginians. We think it's a great tool for anyone who is seeking education and resources on the many issues, opportunities, and choices facing senior citizens today.

The Senior Virginians Handbook provides overviews and contact information concerning topics like Social Security, healthcare, long-term care, planning for the future, housing, and protecting your legal rights. It includes summaries of how specific laws affect Virginia's older citizens and practical advice on issues such as Medicaid, Alzheimer's Disease, landlord-tenant relations, and much more. There is also an extensive list of community service organizations that provide services to senior Virginians.

If you'd like a free copy of the handbook, we'd love to send one your way. Just visit <https://warren-law.com/free-book/> and request your copy by mail.



Phone Down – It’s the (New) Law!

Effective January 2021, it will be illegal for Virginia drivers to hold a mobile device while driving. It doesn’t matter what you are doing with the device – the act of just holding it can get you in trouble. The new legislation is aimed at making Virginia roads safer. Gov. Ralph Northam and VA General Assembly members are hoping it will literally save lives.

Previous law only restricted texting and emailing while driving, but phone use was otherwise unrestricted except in highway work zones. Holding a phone while driving will be a primary offense, which means police can pull you over for that alone.

- **First offense: \$125**
- **Second offense: \$250**
- **Holding device in a work zone: \$250**

DID YOU KNOW?

- Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety found Virginia to be one of 11 states considered “dangerously behind” in driving safety laws.
- 80% of all crashes and 65% of all near crashes involve driver inattention within 3 seconds of the crash. (Virginia Tech)
- Texting (in essence manipulating a phone) while driving increases your crash risk by 2300%, because it involves all THREE kinds of distraction – manual, visual and cognitive. It is by far the most egregious form of distracted driving.
- Motorists with smart phones use hand-held devices in 88 out of every 100 trips. Therefore, Zendrive estimates that there are about 600 million trips involving distracted driving in the US every day. (Zendrive)

These facts about distracted driving are from Drive Smart Virginia, a great resource if you want to do some more in-depth reading about this topic.

Facebook Could Spell Bad News for Your Claim

If you are in the middle of a personal injury lawsuit, you may want to consider temporarily deleting your Facebook, Twitter, and other social networking accounts until your case is resolved. Insurance adjusters spend considerable amounts of time investigating people who file claims against an insurance company and look for ways to contradict those claims. Social networking websites like Facebook and Twitter make the adjusters’ jobs easy.

Facebook pictures in which you are tagged paint an incomplete picture of who you are. Generally, these pictures will show you having a good time, laughing, drinking, dancing, etc. What these pictures won’t show, however, is you going to the doctor’s office, grimacing in pain, or recovering from invasive surgery. Also, the pictures may have been taken before your accident but posted after the accident occurred. Even though you are being honest about your injuries, it may appear to the adjuster that you are being dishonest.

While we’re not recommending that you delete your social networking accounts so that you can lie about your injuries without getting caught (you should never lie about your injuries), the last thing you want is a skeptical jury making character judgments about you based off of carefully selected photos from social networking sites.



We focus our practice on cases involving:
Personal Injury
Wrongful Death
Children's Injuries
Bicycle Accidents
Auto Accidents



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