



E-SCOOTER ACCIDENT GUIDE

7 Things To Do After An **Electric Scooter Accident**

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Accidents that result in personal injury happen on a daily basis. Whether its on the road, in a public place or at work, when people are injured, knowing what to do next very important.

Due to the fact that all personal injury cases will vary and each state has it's own laws as to when and how you can pursue compensation, this guidebook is a great first step in understanding what to do next.

In this FREE guide, you will learn more about types of claims, do's and don'ts when you've been in an accident, the process of filing a claim, and much more.

If you have any additional questions or would like to set up your FREE consultation with a personal injury attorney, please feel free to contact us on (800) 863-5312 or visit the Zinda Law Group website at www.zdfirm.com.

Sincerely,

Jack Zinda

Zinda Law Group Founder

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Electric Scooters in the United States

An Overview

Electric scooters have been a hot topic since Fall 2017 when the relatively unknown, start-up company Bird first released their flock on the busy streets of Santa Monica, California – their “flock” being 10 dockless electric scooters called Birds, of course. Aptly named, within just a few weeks, these scooters would be strewn about the city in the dozens, blocking streets, sidewalks and bike paths, and soliciting the attention of thousands of passerby – just like their namesake.

In less than a year, the market for electric scooters grew tenfold and spread east as other companies capitalized on their novelty and popularity. Bird’s first major contender, Lime, quickly entered the scene by introducing their own fleet of bright green electric scooters. Soon after, ride-sharing companies Lyft and Uber expanded their services to include dockless scooter rentals. In addition to these popular brands, Spin, Gotcha, Skip, Bolt and Ojo are just a few of the many other names you may see on the scooters around your city.

A History of Accidents

Contrary to popular belief, electric scooter accidents are not an uncommon or rare occurrence. In fact, these kinds of accidents are becoming more common as electric scooters spread across the nation and access to them increases.

In March 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted a study in Austin, Texas, and identified 271 riders with e-scooter related injuries within the 87-day study period. Of these victims, 45% suffered head injuries, and 15% incurred traumatic brain injuries as a result of their accident. According to the study, for every 100,000 trips taken, 20 people were injured.

Suffering a serious injury while riding an electric scooter is not the only potential hazard to be aware of; at least 7 deaths have been attributed to electric scooters in the United States alone since 2017.

Malfunctioning and Faulty Scooters

Since introducing their version of e-scooters to the market in 2018, Lime has issued 3 separate scooter recalls within a year due to three different malfunctions.

The first recall in November 2018 involved the potential for the scooter’s batteries to burst into flames suddenly and unexpectedly. A few weeks later, Lime recalled and decommissioned another model after realizing it could break in half while in use. Finally, in early 2019, Lime suspended scooter service in Switzerland due to a software glitch that could cause the front wheel to lock mid ride, resulting in sudden, excessive braking that would toss riders from their vehicles.

Types of E-Scooter Accidents

The sudden emergence and rapid spread of electric scooters across the country has been facilitated in part by the lack of laws and legal doctrine to govern their expansion. Certain regulations prohibiting their use on sidewalks and certain streets without bike lanes are not known by the average rider when they begin their journey, and can increase the chances of an accident occurring.

Defective Scooter Accidents

Defective or malfunctioning scooters are one of the most common causes of scooter accidents, and they pose a serious threat that many riders do not suspect when they first begin their journey. Victims of accidents involving defective scooters have cited stuck throttles, faulty brakes, and software glitches as the cause of their accident and resulting injuries.

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Since electric scooters often share the road with cars, motorcycles, and buses, accidents involving other motor vehicles are possible. Collisions with electric scooters can occur when a motorist disobeys traffic laws, exceeds the speed limit, or drives while distracted or under the influence. The outcome of any of these accidents can be catastrophic.

Bike Accidents

Depending on the city's local ordinances, electric scooters are permitted to ride in the bike lane of certain streets. Bicyclists and scooter riders are expected to share use of the bike lane and follow the normal rules of the road to stay safe while traveling. When these expectations are not met, accidents can occur.

Premises Accidents

When a pathway or road on another person's property is not properly maintained, e-scooter riders can face difficulty while trying to operate the vehicle. Potholes and other unsuspected defects in the road can cause riders to lose control of their scooters and suffer injuries as a result.

Scooter Accidents

Electric scooters are popular, and at any given time it is unlikely you are the only person riding one. When other riders operate their scooters recklessly, disobey traffic laws, or operate the vehicles while under the influence, collisions with other scooter riders are possible.

The 7 Things To Do After An Electric Scooter Accident

Whether you are a frequent scooter user or a more casual rider, accidents happen, and it's important to know the steps you should take should you find yourself the victim of one.

1. Seek Immediate Medical Attention

Before taking any other steps, your first priority should be to seek medical help for anyone who needs it – including yourself. If someone is unsure if they need assistance, decide to be safer rather than sorry and go the emergency room as soon as possible.

2. Contact The Police

When an accident occurs, it is important to have official documentation of the incident. A police report is an objective, unbiased way to:

- understand what happened leading up to the accident
- determine who is at fault and why, and
- document facts such as the exact time and location, witness statements, property damage, and injuries sustained as a result of the accident

3. Exchange Information

If other people are involved in the accident, take time to document information such as their name, phone number, insurance, and address, as well as the license plate, make, model, and year of the vehicle if one is involved. If there are any witnesses to the accident at the scene, get their names, numbers and addresses as well.

4. Take Pictures

It is important to photograph or document everything about the scene of the accident. This includes any property damage, injuries sustained, road defects, and the clothes you were wearing at the time.

5. Take App Screenshots

In addition to photographs, you should document any information collected from the application about your ride, such as travel length and map data, as well as the user agreement and your past trips.

6. Note Any Mechanical Defects

If you suspect a scooter defect caused your accident, make note of what and when you noticed the potential problem. If possible, photograph the scooter itself.

7. Consult a Personal Injury Attorney

A personal injury attorney can help you seek compensation for your injuries after an accident.

About Zinda Law Group, PLLC

Representing All Types of Clients in Personal Injury Cases

The attorneys of Zinda Law Group, PLLC, represent injury victims in a wide range of personal injury cases. We know firsthand that the injuries suffered from an accident can be severe and life-altering for both the victim and their family.

Experienced Accident Litigators

Our experienced and knowledgeable attorneys seek to determine if someone is responsible for your injuries. If so, that person or entity may owe you monetary damages, including compensatory or punitive damages.

Compensatory damages attempt to put an injured person back in the position they were in before being injured. They include lost wages, past and future medical expenses, and pain and suffering. In some cases, punitive damages are also awarded. Punitive damages are given to the injured person in order to penalize wrongdoers and deter others from repeating the offense.

How Zinda Law Group Can Help

If you have been injured in an accident, the attorneys at Zinda Law Group can provide the exceptional representation you need to seek a full recovery after careful review of your claim. Our firm offers experienced, knowledgeable, and compassionate representation to injury accident victims across the United States.

Our dedicated attorney team will fight for your full recovery, including medical expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering, and more. We offer a free consultation to new clients and work on a contingency fee basis, which means if we don't win your case, you don't pay us anything. Call Zinda Law Group toll free at 800-863-5312 so we can start fighting for you!