



# The People's Voice

Spring 2022 Newsletter

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## Big-Rig Truck Wrecks Usually Mean Big Injuries

All those big-rig trucks hauling freight on America's highways and interstates are an important part of American life—after all, their powerful vehicles carry the goods that are essential to our nation's families.

But like the old saying goes, "With great power comes great responsibility." When a truck gets into an accident, it usually

becomes a disaster. That is why it is important for both truck drivers and other motorists to drive carefully and responsibly around these important, but potentially deadly, vehicles. While truck accidents only make up an estimated 6.5% of all motor vehicle accidents, they make up around 13% of all motor vehicle fatalities.

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## Protecting Kids Against Choking Hazards

Some of the product recalls from the Consumer Product Safety Commission that we list in this newsletter say that a product intended for children has been recalled due to being identified as a "choking hazard." These products often seem fine on the surface, but have something wrong with them that can allow children to potentially choke on them. But what does it mean for a product to be a choking hazard for children, and what happens if a child becomes the victim of one of these hazardous products?

### What is a Choking Hazard?

A choking hazard is any object that someone, particularly a small child, may put into their mouth and accidentally swallow, resulting in obstruction of their windpipe. These objects are typically 1.75 inches (4.4 centimeters) in diameter or smaller, which is the perfect size for a child to put into their mouth but be unable to remove. As a result, the object

may get lodged in or above the windpipe, preventing them from breathing and making it likely for them to choke.

### Why Are Choking Hazards a Problem?

The obvious answer is that children can choke on them, resulting in a significant risk of suffocation. However, the reason this is a problem in the first place is that children are curious and do not always know what is, or is not, appropriate to put in their mouths. This causes them to attempt to chew on or swallow objects they can fit in their mouths, including objects that may be dangerous for them to swallow.

### What Can Be Considered a Choking Hazard?

In theory, anything small enough to fit in a child's mouth can potentially become a choking hazard. However, the most serious

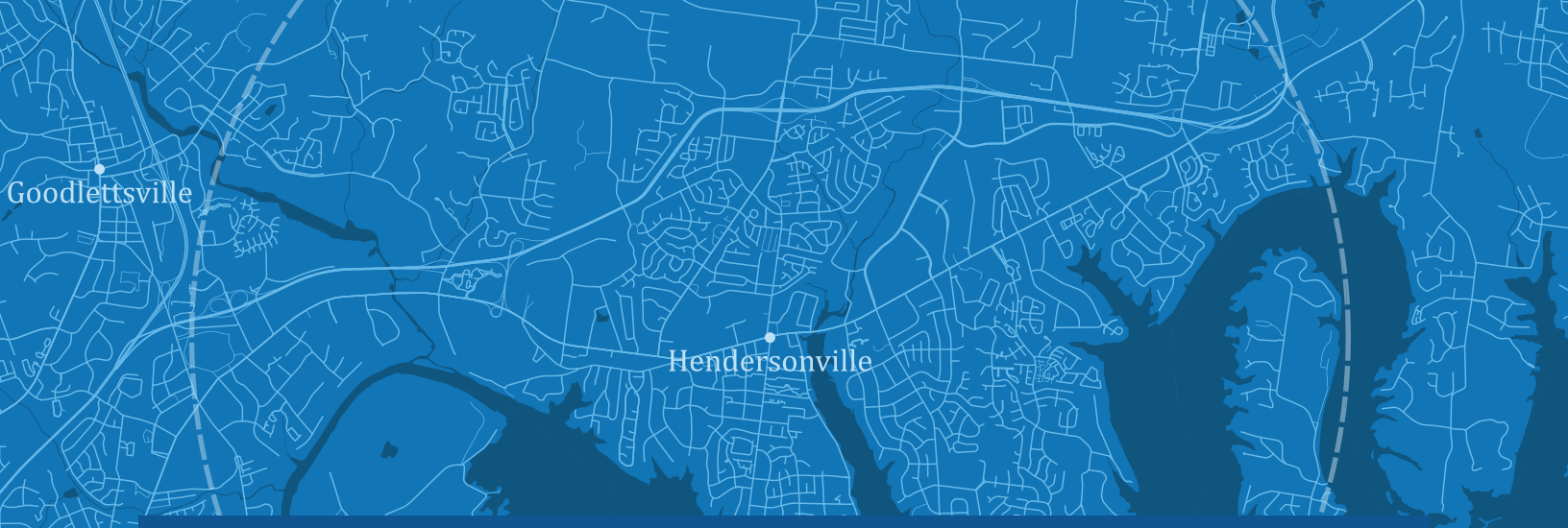
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## Client Testimonial

I am very happy with the results that Keith Williams and his group of attorneys and paralegals obtained for me in my case. I also appreciated how well the office communicated with me to let me know what was happening and what I could expect and when. It went a long way towards helping me through a stressful time. I wouldn't hesitate to refer someone to Keith Williams Law Group, they deliver good results.

DUDLEY

**We truly appreciate you referring your friends and family to us. We promise to always take good care of them!**



## A Little Local History: History Of Historic Homes

Many times, I drive by old, historic homes and wonder about the stories they could tell if only they could talk. Often, they'd be able to correct myths and rumors, or even bring history back to us that was lost long ago.

I recently passed one of these historic homes in Hendersonville, now known as the Hazel Path Mansion. It is a stately old mansion in the heart of Hendersonville that now hosts weddings and other events, and which is near Ellis Middle School and Hendersonville High School. That got me interested in what kind of history the old mansion could tell, so I started doing a little digging and found some interesting history I never knew before.

Hazel Path Mansion was built by Daniel Smith Donelson, who was the grandson of Daniel Smith, who built nearby Rock Castle, another historic home in the area. Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River is named after him, and he became a General in the Confederate Army. After leading troops in a number of battles, including Stones River in Murfreesboro, he later died in Knoxville in April 1863.

Here is where I learned some new history I had never heard before. With General Donelson's widow, Margaret Branch Donelson, away during the Civil War, the Mansion and the plantation around it were taken by the Union and used as a "Contraband Camp" from late 1864 until after the war ended. For those who may have never heard of a Contraband Camp, they were camps set up by the Union where former slaves could cross the Union lines and have some form of refuge. By the end of the war, around half a million African-American former slaves had sought protection behind Union lines, seizing their chance at freedom and often risking death in doing so. Once there, many were recruited into the Union Army or to be workers helping

dig trenches, build fortifications, or otherwise assist the Union war effort.

At Hazel Path, somewhere around 900 former slaves lived at the Contraband Camp where they grew crops, cut timber, and operated a sawmill. I drive near this area nearly every day, and I never knew the place was put to such use and played such an important role in helping so many former slaves find a footing in the early days of their freedom.

This is where I wish the walls of the old mansion could talk. Eventually, Mrs. Donelson returned to Hendersonville to find the Contraband Camp established at Hazel Path. According to the historic marker in front of the Mansion, "Mrs. Donelson petitioned President Andrew Johnson for the return of her property. Johnson agreed because her father, North Carolina Gov. John Branch, had been kind to him in his youth." That may be accurate, but it also appears to sugar-coat and minimize the reality of Mrs. Donelson's efforts to get back her former plantation.

With a little more digging, I found a letter dated July 10, 1865, where Mrs. Donelson uses a "do you know who/how important I am" tone in telling President Johnson she is the widow of an old acquaintance of his, General Donelson, and asking that the plantation be returned to her. Apparently upset that full return of the property had not occurred, several months later, she changed her approach to what became an all-too-familiar resort to unfounded allegations

based on racial stereotypes and fears.

On September 29, 1865, she sent a telegram to President Johnson saying the following: "I appeal to you for protection. This day my house has been entered by colored soldiers living on my place, my life and that of my family threatened, my daughters cursed, my dog shot in my dwelling."



**He also concluded that Mrs. Donelson was herself greatly at fault in the matter and that she had made him "more trouble than all the other returned prodigals in Tennessee."**

President Johnson ordered the Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau in Tennessee, Brigadier General Clinton B. Fisk (Fisk University is named in his honor), to investigate the allegations. His investigation revealed that none of that was true. His report back to President Johnson indicated that Mrs. Donelson's family, neighbors, and the troops all agreed in that finding. He also concluded that Mrs. Donelson was herself greatly at fault in the matter and that she had made him "more trouble than all the other returned prodigals in Tennessee."

Sadly, these are the kinds of stories that shed light on what really happened in the past, but which get lost over time or changed by those controlling the telling of that history.

If only the old homes could talk!



— Jim Stocks

# Recalls—Consumer Safety Alert

**BIBS Baby Bottles.** BIBS baby bottles with a rubber bumper at the bottom, sold at various stores nationwide and online in February 2022, due to danger of hot liquids making the bumper shrink which causes the bottle to tilt over and spill its contents, posing a burn hazard.

**Infant French Terry Jumpsuits, Rompers, Snap Suits, Baby Dresses and Bibs.** Infant French terry jumpsuits, rompers, snap suits, baby dresses, and bibs distributed by Winter Water Factory, LLC and sold at boutique stores nationwide and online at [www.winterwaterfactory.com](http://www.winterwaterfactory.com) between August 2020 and April 2022, due to danger of snaps detaching and exposing sharp prongs, posing both a choking and laceration hazard to young children.

**Children's Robes Imported by NewCosplay.** Children's robes imported by NewCosplay and sold online at [newcosplay.net](http://newcosplay.net) and

[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) between December 2021 and March 2022 due to the failure to meet federal flammability standards for children's sleepwear, posing a risk of burns to children.

**Insignia Air Fryers and Air Fryer Ovens.** Various models of Insignia Air Fryers and Air Fryer Ovens, sold at BestBuy stores nationwide and online at [bestbuy.com](http://bestbuy.com), [ebay.com](http://ebay.com), and [google.com](http://google.com) between November 2018 and February 2022, due to a danger of overheating and posing a fire or burn hazard. Best Buy has received 104 reports from the U.S. and Canada of units catching fire, burning, or melting, including several reports of minor property damage and a resulting injury to a child's leg.

**Children's Robes Imported by Linum Home Textiles, LLC.** Children's 100% cotton terry robes imported by Linum Home Textiles LLC and sold online through numerous websites between July 2017 and April 2022 due to the

failure to meet federal flammability standards for children's sleepwear, posing a risk of burns to children.

**AmazonBasics School Classroom Stack Chairs.** The Amazon Basics School Classroom Stack Chairs recommended for ages 3 to 6 years of age and sold online at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) between January 2019 and January 2022 due to danger of the welds on the chair failing, causing a fall hazard.

**Monti Kids Wooden Push Toys.** A wooden children's push toy sold online at [Montikids.com](http://Montikids.com) between April 2021 and January 2022 due to the danger of the toy's rolling cylinder separating and exposing the balls inside to children and posing a choking hazard.

You can visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) for more specific information about these and other recalled items.

## Big-Rig Truck Wrecks Usually Mean Big Injuries

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So what is it about truck accidents that makes them so deadly? Here are a few of the major factors often involved:

### 1. Trucks are significantly heavier than other vehicles

One of the biggest contributors to truck accidents is, quite simply, their massive weight, especially compared to other vehicles on the road. These heavy vehicles are often slow to accelerate, but are also slow to stop, making it hard to brake if a vehicle in front of them stops suddenly and they are following too closely. In addition, when they get into an accident, the increased weight makes it more likely that the accident will involve serious injuries, or even result in death.

### 2. Trucks suffer from bad roads and bad weather

Truck drivers need to deliver their goods, rain or shine. While that is commendable from a certain perspective, it also means they are likely to be driving in road and weather conditions that are not safe to drive in. This increases the likelihood of an accident, endangering the life of the driver and anyone else who happens to be nearby.

### 3. Truck drivers have significant blind spots

While every vehicle has blind spots to some extent, trucks suffer badly from the massive hauls they carry. It is nearly impossible for them to see directly behind them, for example, and thus will not realize if someone is not giving them enough space if they need to brake. Truck drivers also have blind spots on the side where they cannot see other vehicles around them.

### 4. Truck drivers driving recklessly to meet deadlines

Truck drivers often face tight deadlines to deliver their hauls, leading them to speed and engage in other reckless driving behaviors. The faster a truck is going at the time of an accident, the more time it takes to come to a full stop, and the more force it hits the other vehicle or pedestrian with. This not only makes it more likely for truck accidents to happen, it makes these

accidents substantially more lethal.

### 5. Truck drivers are exhausted

The pressure to deliver on time also leads truck drivers to miss out on sleep, with some of them going days without stopping to rest. This inevitably means that many drivers are physically and mentally exhausted while driving, which slows down their reaction time and impairs their judgment. In extreme cases, they can even fall asleep at the wheel, leading to potentially deadly truck accidents.

Truck wrecks are some of the most serious cases we handle here at the Keith Williams Law Group. We represent both truck drivers injured by the negligence of other drivers and other drivers injured by a big rig that has crashed into them and harmed them or their loved ones. In both types of Truck cases, our goal is to help the person harmed by the negligent or reckless acts of other drivers, and our message is the same: be responsible and careful on the roads, especially big trucks.

Stay safe out there, everyone!



—B. Keith Williams

## Protecting Kids Against Choking Hazards

*Continued from page 1*

danger when it comes to choking hazards are objects specifically intended for children which a parent may leave with their child while they are unattended. If the object is small enough to fit in a child's mouth, or if parts of an object can break off and get lodged in a child's mouth due to a child playing with it, it can become a choking hazard.

### What Should You Do To Protect Against A Choking Hazard?

First, you should always keep any potentially dangerous items out of the immediate reach of children, especially anything you do not want them to eat. You should also check to see if any toys have parts that can easily break

off or separate, which a child may attempt to swallow. After that, you should check the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) website to see if any toys you own have been recalled, whether because they pose a risk of choking or due to any other potential dangers.



—Troy Jones

## Practice Areas:

- Auto Accidents
- Big Truck Accidents
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Aviation Accidents
- Construction Accidents
- Personal Injury
- Wrongful Death
- Dangerous Products
- Social Security Disability
- Business Litigation

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**We promise to always take good care  
of the friends and family you refer to us!**