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December 2009 e-newsletter

Play Our 'Scary' Contest

One of our employees (who shall remain nameless) hosted a Halloween theme party, **Casino Fatale**. Four members of the talented ZiffLaw staff are featured in costume in the photo below. Identify these women and you could win a prize!



We are giving great prizes to the first 10 people who e-mail the correct names of the 4 ZiffLaw ladies in the picture to jreed@zifflaw.com. The first two people with the right answer will each receive a FREE ZiffLaw cooler (pictured at right). The next eight runners-up will get a ZiffLaw pint glass or coffee mug.



Good luck and thanks for playing!



Create a Life-Saving Supply Kit for Your Car

Cold weather calls for every motorist to keep a bag in his or her trunk that is stocked with potentially life-saving gear.

Many people become stranded overnight in the snow, so hedge your bets by keeping some gear in your vehicle. Just consider - how much would you miss a flashlight, water, warm blankets, or maintenance medications in even just a few hours' wait for a tow truck?

Most of the items on the following checklist may be obtained from around the house. You may not spend a dime, but these things are worth a mint in an emergency.

Car Kit Checklist

- A blanket for each family member
- Matches or lighters
- Towels
- Nonperishable foods, such as granola bars
- Bottled water
- Extra socks and gloves
- A flashlight with extra batteries
- A three-day (at least) supply of medications
- A small sack of sand
- A folding camping shovel
- Jumper cables
- Extra windshield washer fluid

If you are short on time to collect some of these supplies, remember that pre-packaged emergency kits are available for at many auto parts stores.

Look at that - we just gave you a great holiday gift idea as well as safety advice!

- Ziff Law attorney [Adam M. Gee](#) developed this list of emergency items for the [NY Injury Law Blog](#). Be sure to check out Adam's recent series of posts revealing the finer points of motorcycle insurance coverage - where what you don't know could cost you.



Winter Roads Require Different Driving Style

How you drive can be just as important as the condition and build of your car. Driving too quickly, following other cars too closely, and parking in areas that are designated to hold plowed snow are all dangerous habits.

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Driver's Manual contains the following winter driving tips - as well as a lot more great advice about driving safely. (They are the experts!).

No. 1 tip: Drive slowly. Even if your vehicle has good traction in ice and snow, other drivers will be traveling cautiously. Don't disrupt the flow of traffic by driving faster than everyone else.

No. 2 tip: Don't be misled by the better handling of a front-wheel drive vehicle. Such cars and trucks may handle better in inclement weather, but they do not have perfect traction. ANYONE can go into a skid unexpectedly.

No. 3 tip: To avoid skids, brake carefully and gently on snow or ice. "Squeeze" your brakes in slow, steady strokes. Allow the wheels to keep rolling. If they start to lock up, ease off the brake pedal. As you slow down, you may also want to shift into a lower gear.

No. 4 tip: Remember that rain or sleet is likely to freeze first on bridges, ramps, and overpasses. Also be aware that slippery spots may still remain after road crews have cleared the highways.

For your own copy of the manual, visit the [Driver's Manual and Study Guide at the online NYS DMV Internet Office](#). It features a complete online copy of the state's driving manual - including quizzes at the end of each chapter.

Be a Safety-Minded Holiday Host

If you are hosting a holiday bash, you have a responsibility to make sure that only sober guests drive home.

Some strategies to keep your friends and the roads safe:

- Pre-arrange designated "taxi" drivers from your guest list.
- Get your guest room set and see if any neighbors or close friends you invite are willing to do the same for overflow guests.
- Put transportation information right in with your invitations, letting everyone know you are preparing to have all your guests head home safely.

Until next month,

Your Friends At The Ziff Law Firm