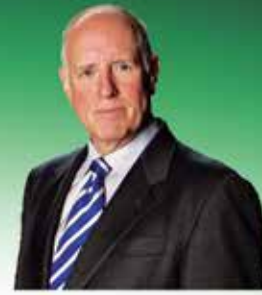


Kalfus & Nachman



INJURY AND DISABILITY LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

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Roads Are in Good Shape according to Virginia DOT Road Conditions Report

In the "State of the Pavement 2015" report issued last December, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) reported that 88% of the interstate highways and 81.2% of primary roads are in fair or better condition.



This exceeds the target for interstate highways of 82%. These results are about the same as last year although the condition category varies quite a bit based on the type of road.

For fiscal year 2016, the state plans to spend \$1.6 billion on highway maintenance and operations, including road paving and bridge repairs.

For a state that is ranked as the 3rd largest state maintained highway system in the country, a healthy percentage - 81.2% - of our primary roads are in fair or better condition, with 60% of secondary roads in fair or better condition.

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....continued from page 1 **Roads Are in Good Shape according to Virginia DOT....**

Although January's blizzard delivered snowfall totals up to 16" in Richmond, the winter of 2015-2016 was significantly easier in terms of bad weather than the prior year. Harsh winters and salt-treated roads create lots of potholes but it appears from the positive report that they are being repaired quickly.

Until the DOT can complete its end-of-winter repairs, please follow these tips to handle potholes:

- Keep tires properly inflated.
- Be extra vigilant of road conditions. Beware of puddles, no matter how small, because they may be deep potholes filled with water.
- Don't ever get into an accident to avoid a pothole. Slow down and decide quickly whether to go around it or straddle it based on road conditions and oncoming traffic.
- If you can't avoid a pothole, slow down and drive carefully at a constant speed.

Think Spring! Seasonal Home Maintenance Tips

Spring is here and with it comes thoughts of warm weather, baseball, being outdoors and ... home repairs! You've probably made an inspection tour of your yard, the outside of your house, your driveway and walkways and made a few "to-do" notes.

If you're feeling overwhelmed, don't despair. Just prioritize your tasks and tackle them one by one. Here's a basic checklist to get you started:

- Don't climb on the roof! Instead, visually examine roof shingles for any that are loose, missing or cracked. If it's been a while since your roof has been inspected, call in a professional to check shingles and all flashings.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned by a certified chimney sweep.
- Check your gutters to see if they're loose, leaking or clogged. They must be in working order to keep water out of your basement. Make sure drain spouts are draining properly.
- Ask a qualified heating and cooling contractor to clean and service your outside air conditioning unit. Change interior filters regularly.
- If you have any low-lying areas in your yard or next to the foundation, fill them in with compacted soil to avoid flooding.
- Check that all exterior concrete slabs drain away from your foundation. Fill in any cracks and then power wash and follow with a sealer.
- Make sure your exterior hose is ready to go and free of dry rot. Check faucet for freeze damage and replace the interior pipe if necessary.
- Check all exterior wood such as trim, decking and fencing for rot and water damage. Now is a good time to repair and paint these spots before excessive rain causes more damage.
- Pressure-wash siding where appropriate as well as decks and driveways.
- Inspect your trees for dead branches, especially if they are dangling. For upper branches, hire a licensed arborist to do the trimming.



....continued on page 3

....continued from page 2 **Think Spring! Seasonal Home Maintenance Tips**

When you're finished, sit back, enjoy the sunshine and congratulate yourself on a job well done.

If you or a family member has been injured in an auto accident or any personal injury, or has been denied Social Security Disability benefits, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call **800-361-0430** for your initial free consultation. Kalfus & Nachman PC, Personal Injury attorney in Norfolk, can help you determine whether you need a lawyer for any personal injury case.

Can You Trust Uber?

The disturbing story of an Uber driver who picked up passengers between victims of his killing spree leaves some wondering how safe the alternate cab service really is.

Although many are questioning if Uber's driver vetting process is stringent enough, is Uber really more dangerous than taking traditional cabs?

Well, let's go straight to the source and look at Uber's extensive precautions they take to ensure passenger safety.

First of all, every Uber trip is insured—from pickup to drop-off, covering both the rider and driver. And, the company employs incident response teams who are trained to respond to emergencies around the clock.

As far as driver vetting goes, Uber screens all applicants with background checks at the local, state and federal level. Also, drivers each have a profile in the company's app, allowing passengers to pick and choose the best driver and rate them after a ride.

This idea that anyone with a criminal record can become an Uber driver is just false.

Critics of Uber say the company should have done more to screen out bad drivers. They fail to mention that the shooter we talked about earlier had a clean background check.

Criminal histories are just that—history. They can't predict the future, and one loose cannon doesn't mean Uber is inherently flawed or unsafe.

Of course, it's up to you to pick the safest form of transportation. Uber claims there's nothing wrong with its hiring process, and says they garner unwanted attention because their company is relatively new.

For now at least, it seems like catching an Uber ride across town isn't more dangerous than taking a cab or driving yourself.



Talcum Powder Ovarian Cancer

If you or a family member may have injury caused by talcum powder or another dangerous drug, please contact



Kalfus & Nachman online today or call **(800) 361-0430** to schedule a free case evaluation.

Online Taxi Safety as seen on the Hampton Roads Show



<http://www.kalfusnachman.com/legal-matters/online-taxi-safety.html>



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