

Legal Briefs

A LEGAL NEWSLETTER FOR
FRIENDS AND FAMILY



Graham Lundberg & Peschel Founded 1979

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SECURE YOUR LOAD - ITS THE LAW

By Lorna Holland

More than likely, if you've driven on Washington State roads, you've experienced at least a little debris flying at you from a car or a truck. For the most part you slow down, or maybe swerve a bit. Even a slight reactive swerve could cause an accident, but in some cases, such as the recent incident on I-5 involving an unsecured load, a chain-reaction collision occurred, resulting in a man's death.

The 21 year old driver of the pickup, whose allegedly unsecured load caused the crash, could be the first person to be charged under the state's year-old "Maria's Law."

The law is named for Maria Federici; a woman blinded and permanently disfigured when a piece of particleboard flew off a trailer, impaling her windshield. "Maria's Law," which took effect in July 2005, makes it a gross misdemeanor if an unsecured load causes an injury or death, and carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

In June 2006, a second, related law went into effect, making failure to secure a load a criminal act if it results in death or injury. Some communities may also have local ordinances

that go beyond state law and require loads to be covered. Check with your local authorities to find out if you are in compliance, and keep these tips in mind:

- Tie Down the large items directly to your vehicle with rope, straps, bungees, or netting.
- Lighter items belong at the bottom of your load.
- Don't overload your truck bed or trailer, unless tied down, netted, or strapped securely.
- Always double-check your load.
- Consider covering the load with sturdy plastic or a tarp.

Taking the extra time to secure your load is worth your peace of mind, and may save a life.

Associate Attorney Spotlight

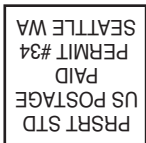
Jason Epstein has been dedicated to representing injured people since beginning his legal career. A Seattle native, Mr. Epstein received his undergraduate degree in Philosophy from the University of Southern California in 1995, and his Juris Doctor from Pepperdine University in 2001. After graduating from Pepperdine, Mr. Epstein moved back to the Seattle area and opened his

own law firm focusing on protecting the rights of the injured. Mr. Epstein next took a position as an associate attorney with a Puget Sound law firm where he represented seriously injured people and victims of catastrophic medical malpractice, including a failure to diagnose a sub-arachnoid hemorrhage which resulted in a settlement for over \$2.5 million. Mr. Epstein next joined another

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We are a team of legal professionals working together to advocate for the injured while being recognized in the community for providing the highest level of service.

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Charles Quackenbush
Melanie Shotts
Julia Tyabij

Puget Sound personal injury law firm where his focus remained helping the injured achieve full recoveries, including a \$1.06 million settlement for a surveyor who was struck when another driver passed out at the wheel. In April of 2006, Mr. Epstein joined Graham Lundberg & Peschel where he continues his work of holding insurance companies accountable by representing injured people. Mr. Epstein is a member of the American Bar Association, the Washington Bar Association, the United States District Court for the West-

ern District of Washington, the American Trial Lawyers Association, and the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association. Mr. Epstein has also completed a certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine University and the Trial Advocacy Skills program through the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. Mr. Epstein lives on the East-side of Lake Washington with his wife and son. In his spare time, Mr. Epstein enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, exercising regularly, and taking in the great outdoors.

In the North Sound area call (800) 422-4610 for your complimentary copy.

We are in your neighborhood!

Graham Lundberg & Peschel – Attorneys at Law, since 1979, have offices throughout Western Washington including Seattle, Tacoma and Port Orchard. For a location near you, visit our Web site at www.glpattorneys.com. We handle all types of personal injury cases including motor vehicle accidents, slip & falls, product liability injuries and wrongful death.

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