



WHAT IS AN INJURY ACTION PLAN AND WHY DO I NEED ONE?

No one likes to think about the unthinkable. It is not pleasant to consider what might happen if you were involved in an incident and were rendered unconscious or incapacitated. Worse yet, what if you were killed? Unfortunately, the unthinkable happens to someone each day. Disaster can and will strike.

Immediately after disaster strikes, often family members and loved ones are required to make decisions for you and pitch in to take up the slack. Protecting your rights, defending you and holding those responsible accountable are usually far from their minds. However, this is one of the most crucial times when it comes to holding those responsible for their actions. Immediately following an accident or injury, corporations and insurance companies send out investigators and “experts” to start protecting their interests and making sure that they are not held responsible. It is called “Damage Control.” And they are professionals at it.

When disaster strikes and the unthinkable happens, you need to be prepared too. Just as major corporations, national, state and local government have plans when disaster strikes, you need an injury action plan. Here is why.

Several years ago, I received the phone call that no one ever wants to get. A family member had been involved in a horrific car wreck. There was no plan for the family to follow. No one knew what to do except go to the hospital and wait. Whether the injured family member was going to make it was all that mattered and rightfully so. However, someone needed to look out for the interests of our family member because the insurance company for the other driver was already on the defense. They had a team assembled. They were trying to find witnesses, get statements from everyone involved in an attempt to place blame on my family member or another “phantom” driver. The evidence crucial to protecting my family member was already disappearing. The tire tracks were already starting to degrade and disappear. The vehicles had been removed and secured in separate facilities. Parts of the vehicles were being misplaced. Photos had been taken, but no one knew by whom.



Fortunately, for my family member, I had seen what happens when evidence is not secured and memories start to change. Once I spoke to my family member and they knew that I had been there it was time to go to work protecting their interests and making sure the truth was not changed.

You can help yourself and make it easier for your family members and loved ones if disaster strikes. Take a few moments to fill out an Injury Action Plan. We have listed several forms below that are specific to workers in industries that we have represented or other types of cases we have handled.

After filling it out, put it in an easily accessible place and tell your family members and loved ones where it is and when to use it. You may also want to include copies of your Living Will or Advance Directives and/or other health and life insurance information.