

New York Personal Injury Lawyer Warns Pedestrians To Watch For Quieter Hybrid Vehicles

Attorneys Steven J. Schwartzapfel says a new study should spur auto manufacturers to increase safety of hybrid vehicles for pedestrians and bicyclists.

New York, NY ([PRWEB](#)) October 17, 2009 -- Hybrid cars may be good for the environment but a new study shows these quiet vehicles are more dangerous than other cars for pedestrians and bicycle riders, says a New York personal injury lawyer.

"These vehicles may provide important environmental benefits, but they cannot do so at the expense of safety," said Steven J. Schwartzapfel, a partner in the New York personal injury firm of [Schwartzapfel Truhowsky Marcus P.C.](#)

A September 2009 report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that hybrid vehicles, which are typically quieter than internal combustion engine cars and trucks, can pose a greater risk to pedestrians and bicyclists.

The study found that "(hybrid electric vehicles) have a higher incidence rate of pedestrian and bicyclist crashes than do (internal combustion engine) vehicles in certain vehicle maneuvers. These results should serve as a guide when designing future HEVs pedestrian and bicyclist crash prevention programs."

Said Schwartzapfel, "In light of this report, hybrid manufacturers and drivers are now on notice that they need to take steps to make sure their cars are seen and heard by cyclists and pedestrians. They may be held accountable for injuries when they fail to take those steps."

Proposed legislation, the Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act of 2009, would require federal transportation safety regulators to set a minimum noise level for vehicles. Reports in the New York Times indicate this noise boost could come in the form of hidden speakers that play emulated or recorded engine sounds.

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