Slow NYC Emergency Response after Snowstorm criticized by New York Personal Injury Attorneys

New York City was unprepared for the blizzard and slow to react to the storm; the subsequent slippery mess resulted in deaths that may not have occurred if the city had been more organized.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK - December XX, 2010 - Ice and snow conditions in New York increased the chances of <u>snow related deaths</u> – some, possibly, preventable. Apparently, New York was unprepared for the blizzard. City officials ignored blizzard warnings and then refused to call a snow emergency.

Throughout the blizzard and the aftermath, stories have been circulating about people who suffered wrongful deaths and serious medical problems while waiting for ambulances to reach them

"The City's emergency response system dealt with a tremendous number of calls in the days after the blizzard, but if officials could have been more prepared I believe some of these deaths could have been prevented," said New York personal injury lawyer David Perecman.

A 3-month-old child was left <u>brain dead</u> after unplowed, snow-clogged routes prevented EMS workers from reaching him quickly enough. On top of the fifteen minutes it took to get through to 911, it took a half-hour to get the boy to the emergency room.

A Brooklyn woman called 911 several times on Monday to report she was in labor. She <u>delivered an unconscious baby</u> who was later pronounced dead.

A 75-year old woman died in Queens, New York after having difficulty breathing. For over an hour, her daughter unsuccessfully tried to reach a 911 operator. Finally, a neighbor got though but then an ambulance took more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours to arrive, with emergency responders trudging through the snow on foot to reach her home.

New York personal injury lawyers are also waiting for more information on an alleged sabotage effort by the New York City Sanitation Department which was designed to slow the snow cleanup. According to *The New York Post*, New York Sanitation Department supervisors ordered their drivers to further hamper the blizzard cleanup efforts to protest budget cuts in the outer boroughs. This move slowed efforts of emergency-services vehicles and may have been a major contributor to some of the wrongful deaths.

"The fact that snow removal has been so slow increases the chances of many types of preventable <u>personal injury accidents</u>," said New York personal injury lawyer David

Perecman.

About David Perecman and The Perecman Firm, PLLC:

For the past 30 years, the personal injury accident, auto accident, construction accident, and medical malpractice lawyers at The Perecman Firm, PLLC have championed all types of cases concerning personal injury. David Perecman, founder of the Firm, is a Board Director and the past Secretary and Treasurer of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association (NYSTLA) and a chair of its Labor Law Committee. Mr. Perecman's achievements have brought him recognition as an Honoree in the National Law Journal's Hall of Fame, in New York Magazine's "The Best Lawyers in America" and The New York Times Magazine "New York Super Lawyers, Metro Edition" for the years 2007-2010.

http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/12/02/price-freedom

The Firm has recovered millions of dollars for its clients. Among the more recent victories, Mr. Perecman won a \$15 million verdict* for a construction accident, a \$5.35 million dollar verdict** for an automobile accident, \$680,000 for a woman injured by a bus***, and a \$40 million dollar structured settlement for medical malpractice****.

^{*}later settled while on appeal for \$7.940 million

^{**} later settled for \$3.5 million

^{***} later settled for \$500,000

^{****}total potential payout

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