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BLACKBURN **ROMEY**

TRUSTED INJURY LAWYERS

JANUARY 2026



Blackburn Romey attorneys (from left): Frank Wolferd, Ryan Lindinger, Tom Blackburn, Chad Romey, Christopher Blackburn and David Singleton.

Bringing Christmas Joy to Kids



Blackburn Romey attorney Chad Romey sits among dozens of new toys that were donated by the firm's employees, their families and members of the community. The toys were delivered to the local Marine Corps Toys for Tots foundation.

Law Firm Gives Back to Community *Hosted drives for Rescue Mission and Toys for Tots*



Tom Blackburn (left) and Chad Romey were pleased with the amount of new toys the firm collected for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign in December. The toys were donated by employees and their families, as well as members of the community. A few weeks before Christmas, Tom and Chad loaded the toys into a car and delivered them to a local Toys for Tots coordinator.



Blackburn Romey employees Alicia Johnson and Brandon Pasick filled a car with donations of gifts for the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission. The Rescue Mission provides help for the homeless, food for the hungry and hope through their ministry.



Driving in Snow and Ice: Essential Tips for Winter Driving on Indiana Roads

Indiana winters bring dangerous conditions that challenge even experienced drivers. Black ice forms without warning, snowstorms roll in suddenly, and visibility drops to just a few feet in heavy snow. Each year, thousands of families across the state navigate freezing temperatures and unpredictable weather during their daily commutes, family travels, and holiday celebrations. Understanding how to safely handle **driving in snow and ice** isn't just practical advice; it is essential protection for you and your loved ones against potentially life-altering accidents.

At **Blackburn Romey**, we understand how quickly winter conditions can deteriorate and how devastating the consequences can be when drivers are unprepared. Whether you're an experienced driver or new to winter weather, knowing the right safety techniques could mean the difference between arriving home safely and facing a crisis on an icy highway.

Prepare Your Vehicle Before Hitting the Road

Winter travel begins long before you start the engine. Taking time to inspect and prepare your vehicle reduces the risk of mechanical failures and helps you stay in control on slick roads. Start by checking tire tread and pressure, as cold air can lower inflation levels. Refill all fluids, especially antifreeze and windshield washer fluid designed for freezing temperatures.

Keeping your gas tank at least half full helps prevent fuel line freeze-ups and ensures you have enough fuel if traffic slows due to an accident or snowstorm.

It is also a good idea to test your battery, as freezing weather can weaken its charge.

According to the [Indiana Department of Transportation](#), winter driving in Indiana can be dangerous due to freezing temperatures, snow, and ice. The agency advises drivers to slow down, check road conditions, and always prepare before heading out on wintry roads.

Winter Tires, De-Icing Tools, and Emergency Supplies

Winter tires give you better traction on icy or snow-covered roads. If replacing all tires isn't possible, make sure your existing ones are in good condition and have adequate tread depth.

Keep these essentials in your car during winter:

- De-icing tools, such as a scraper, a small shovel, and a windshield de-icer spray.
- Blankets, gloves, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks in case you need to wait for assistance.
- A flashlight with fresh batteries and jumper cables.
- A reflective vest or roadside triangle to alert other drivers if you must stop.

These small preparations may make a difference when temperatures drop below freezing.

Safe Driving Techniques for Snowy and Icy Conditions

When **driving in snow and ice**, move slowly and handle every action, acceleration, braking, and steering with smooth, steady motions to prevent skidding. Keep a safe distance of four to six seconds behind other vehicles and apply your brakes gently and early. If your car begins to slide, ease off the gas and steer gently toward the path you want to follow, without pressing the brakes too hard.

Ice tends to form quickly on bridges and overpasses, especially when temperatures drop. Treat these areas as slick, even if the rest of the highway looks clear, and avoid using cruise control in snowy or icy weather since it can cause your tires to lose traction unexpectedly.

Common Winter Driving Mistakes That Lead to Accidents

Many [car accidents](#) in winter occur not just because of poor weather but because of common driving errors. One frequent mistake is following other vehicles too closely. During snow or ice conditions, it takes longer to stop, and a sudden brake by the car ahead could cause a collision.

Another problem is failing to clear all snow and ice from your vehicle before driving. Snow can slide down onto your windshield or blow off onto another driver's car, blocking visibility. Also, drivers often overestimate their vehicles' capabilities. Even with all-wheel drive, you can lose traction quickly on ice.

Distraction also becomes more hazardous in winter, and maintaining your focus on the road and keeping both hands on the wheel helps you respond quickly if conditions change.

What to Do If You're Involved in a Winter Weather Crash

Knowing [what to do after a car accident on holiday in Indiana](#) becomes especially important during winter months, when snow, ice, and unfamiliar travel routes can complicate an already stressful situation.

After a winter crash, your first priority should be safety. Check yourself and your passengers for injuries, and assess your surroundings before exiting the vehicle. Turn on your hazard lights and contact emergency services if needed.

Here's what to do next:

- Move your vehicle out of traffic if possible and it is safe to do so.
- Call 911 to report the accident and request medical help if anyone is injured.
- Exchange contact and insurance information with other drivers involved.
- Document the scene by taking photos of vehicle damage, road conditions, and license plates.
- Notify your insurance provider as soon as possible.
- Contact local law enforcement to report the crash. Indiana law requires drivers to report accidents that cause injury, death, or property damage exceeding \$1,000.
- Avoid admitting fault at the scene, as weather-related accidents often involve multiple factors.

Winter crashes can also overlap with commercial vehicle issues, and some victims wonder [what happens if a truck driver tests positive for drugs after an accident in Indiana?](#)—a concern that highlights how weather conditions and driver impairment can combine to create even more serious outcomes.

If your vehicle is disabled or you're unable to move it safely, remain inside with your seatbelt fastened while waiting for help. Keep your phone accessible to communicate with emergency responders. According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) (NHTSA), clear snow away from your exhaust pipe to prevent carbon monoxide buildup and run the engine occasionally to

maintain heat. Avoid leaving the car running for extended periods with the windows closed.

Contact Blackburn Romey for Legal Support After a Snow or Ice Accident

Winter weather doesn't just make driving stressful; it also presents complex legal and insurance issues that often leave accident victims confused about the following steps to take. Determining fault in a winter accident can be challenging and depends on whether a driver acted reasonably given the road conditions.

At **Blackburn Romey**, we know the unique risks associated with **driving in snow and ice**, including slippery intersections, poor visibility, slow emergency response times, and insurance companies seeking to minimize payouts. When a winter weather crash results in injuries, having an attorney on your side to guide you through the claim process is vital. Call us at **833-FOR-HELP** for a free consultation today.





Blackburn Romey employees enjoyed a staff Christmas dinner last month at the 110 Restaurant in Warsaw. It appears a good time was had by all, as noted by lawyers Chris Blackburn and Ryan Lindinger (bottom photo at right).

Got Questions?

We've got the answers

- [What to do after a car accident in Indiana](#)
- [How road hazards cause motorcycle crashes](#)
- [Common trucking accidents during deliveries](#)
- [What happens if you're in an accident and do not have insurance?](#)
- [The 14 most dangerous dog breeds](#)



Google Reviews

My name is Marliese.

When I got into my car wreck, I tried really hard on my own to settle with the insurance company. I had zero success and was constantly given the run around. My best friend talked

me into calling attorneys, that was an experience in itself. However, Blackburn Romey made things easier for me. They took over for me, dealing with the insurance company. They helped me focus on my health and my daughter's health. It was peace of mind knowing they had my back. Chris (Blackburn) was absolutely terrific and always in contact with me, letting me know where we were at in the case. His team was always available for me, and I don't think I will ever forget their kindness, support, and encouragement. I would be glad to recommend them to anyone who is hurt or injured in an accident. I loved working with them from the beginning.



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Talk to one of our attorneys today!
Free initial consultation
Fee based upon recovery

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EVANSVILLE

815 John Street, Suite 120
Evansville, IN 47713
930-212-1166

FORT WAYNE

4203 W Jefferson Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
260-422-4400

MERRILLVILLE

2620 W Lincoln Highway
Merrillville, IN 46410
219-769-7415

LAFAYETTE

35 Executive Drive, Suite 2
Lafayette, IN 47905
765-447-9121

SOUTH BEND•MISHAWAKA•GRANGER

1450 University Drive Court
Granger, IN 46530
574-277-7711

INDIANAPOLIS

8777 Purdue Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268
317-204-1087

TERRE HAUTE

2901 Ohio Blvd., Suite 116-5
Terre Haute, IN 47803
812-645-5288

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