

Complex Legal Investigations



Trial Models and Exhibits

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Product liability cases almost always require the use of a model at trial. If the product is too large to bring into the courtroom, then a model is necessary. A model will permit a clear and concise explanation of how the accident occurred. It will show which part or system of parts has failed and where it is located on the machine. A model also shows the jury how sub-systems work and support each other.

Model's also assist in interviewing and deposing witness. In interviews it makes it easier for the attorney and investigator to know what the witness (and the client) is referring to. One of the most important aspects of any heavy equipment investigation is knowing the terminology, that is, what the client or witness is referring to on a piece of equipment. This helps in understanding the mechanism of the accident.

Construction, crane and oil rig workers have their own unique language which must be understood completely before beginning the investigation. A model of the piece of equipment is very helpful in learning and understanding this terminology and the intricacies of how the equipment works.



For trials; the Attorney is going to need exhibits, charts, photographs, drawings, and x-rays to introduce as exhibits. These need to be enlarged to show the jury during the opening statement and closing arguments. These exhibits may be organized and available either as enlargements placed on boards or as power point slides arranged in the proper order. Some attorneys use a combination of boards and slides. As an investigator learn how to make and present both.