

# Spinal Cord Injuries and Their Lasting Impact: Legal and Financial Consequences After a Workplace Accident

OPELOUSAS, LA, UNITED STATES, June 12, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Spinal cord injuries (SCIs) are among the most devastating outcomes of workplace accidents. Beyond the initial trauma, these injuries often lead to a lifetime of medical care, adaptive equipment, and lost income—consequences that are compounded when the injury stems from another party's negligence.

In Louisiana, workers in industries ranging from construction and oilfield services to transportation and manufacturing face daily risks. When safety procedures are overlooked, equipment fails, or hazardous environments are ignored, the result can be life-altering for the injured individual and their family. A spinal cord injury changes not only physical mobility but also emotional and financial stability.



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*William P. Morrow*

According to data from the National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center, the average yearly cost of care for a person living with SCI can range from \$375,000 to over \$1.1 million in the first year alone, depending on the severity of the injury. For high tetraplegia (C1–C4 level), total lifetime costs can exceed \$5 million. These figures do not account for lost wages, reduced earning capacity, or the psychological toll of permanent disability.

“Spinal cord injuries disrupt every aspect of a person's life,” said [William P. Morrow](#), an attorney at [Morrow Law Firm](#) in Opelousas. “The physical trauma is only one part. There are years—often decades—of financial strain, medical care, and loss of independence. When the injury occurs on the job because of unsafe working conditions or employer negligence, the legal implications

become just as long-term as the injury itself.”

Louisiana law provides avenues for those injured on the job, but the path to compensation is complex. Workers’ compensation may cover basic medical expenses and partial wages, but it rarely meets the true cost of a spinal cord injury. In some cases, third-party

liability claims may offer additional legal recourse—particularly if a subcontractor, manufacturer, or property owner contributed to the hazardous condition.



Legal professionals stress the importance of understanding the full scope of costs involved. Medical bills are only the beginning. Many spinal cord injury patients require in-home caregivers, ongoing physical therapy, vehicle modifications, and long-term medications. Even with insurance, out-of-pocket expenses can be overwhelming.

“Accurately calculating future costs is essential in any case involving spinal trauma,” said Morrow. “An injury of this nature often means a person will never return to the workforce in the same capacity. Economic projections, medical evaluations, and vocational assessments are critical components of the legal process.”

Morrow Law Firm handles a range of cases involving catastrophic workplace injuries. The legal team includes William P. Morrow, John Michael Morrow, Jr., and Stephen M. Morrow—attorneys with extensive experience in Louisiana’s workers’ compensation and personal injury law. The firm is based in Opelousas and serves clients throughout the state.

Recent legal developments and increased attention on workplace safety have highlighted the need for proactive policies across industries. OSHA continues to emphasize fall prevention, protective equipment, and employee training as key strategies for reducing catastrophic injuries, including spinal trauma. Yet enforcement gaps and cost-cutting measures continue to expose workers to risk.

In many spinal cord injury cases, the causes are preventable. Falls from elevated platforms, collapsing scaffolding, heavy machinery accidents, and vehicle collisions are all common contributing factors. These incidents often point to lapses in oversight, failure to follow federal safety standards, or poor maintenance of equipment.

“Prevention should always be the priority,” Morrow added. “But when prevention fails, accountability must follow. The legal process serves as a tool to ensure that those responsible for unsafe conditions are held to account.”

The ripple effects of spinal cord injuries extend beyond the individual. Families face emotional burnout, financial hardship, and the challenge of adapting homes, routines, and entire lifestyles to support their loved one. The burden is heavy—and often lifelong.

As Louisiana continues to rebuild infrastructure and expand its industrial base, questions about workplace safety and employer accountability grow increasingly urgent. For workers impacted by spinal cord injuries, legal action becomes a necessary step toward reclaiming some measure of stability.

The long-term consequences of spinal cord injuries demand serious attention—not only from employers and policymakers but also from legal professionals tasked with protecting injured workers' rights. In the absence of immediate solutions, the law remains one of the few paths toward long-term care and recovery.

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