

March 19, 2018

SAFETY AT CONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS



Perhaps the most familiar of all traffic signs, the red octagonal stop sign, can be a significant risk to all drivers, including good drivers. A significant percent of fatal accidents occur each year because another driver did not see, purposely ignored, or showed poor judgment at a stop sign. Highway Patrol officials have reported that drivers often stop or slow at a sign and then pull out without bothering to check the intersection for an oncoming car, or they misjudge an approaching car's distance and speed and pull in front of it.

Extra caution is warranted when approaching intersections, even when you have the right of way. As you approach and see a car about to cross or enter the road you're on, don't just look at the car to see if it comes to a full stop. Check the driver too. Is he or she looking your way? Does he or she appear distracted? It could be your best warning of an accident waiting to happen.



Red-light running is on the rise nationwide. In a six-year study, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that deadly crashes at red lights increased at more than three times the rate of all other types of fatal auto accidents.

Even when your light has changed to green, take one more look both ways before proceeding. You must protect yourself, your passengers, and those around you. Too many drivers consider the yellow light a 'last chance' to get through an intersection rather than a caution signal.

**Remember: BRAKE on yellow,
STOP on red, GO on green.**