

SAFETY BRAKE

INTERSECTION SAFETY

According to the Federal Highway Administration, “Over the last several years an average of one-quarter of traffic fatalities and roughly half of all traffic injuries are attributed to intersections.”¹ Intersections have a multitude of factors that can contribute to accidents: pedestrians, crossing traffic, turning traffic, visual obstructions, and traffic signals. Here are some helpful tips to reduce the risk of an accident in or near intersections:

- ◆ **Drive defensively:** Be alert, prepared, and try to identify potential hazards before entering an intersection.
- ◆ **Know the Right of Way:** The professional driver knows that the **law** never gives the “right of way” to anyone; the only one who can give it is the **driver**.
- ◆ **Practice patience:** Impatience can cause you to drive emotionally and potentially decrease your attention.
- ◆ **Watch for “Stale” lights:** As you close on the intersection, take note of how long the light has been green. Prepare to stop if the light has been green for an extended time.
- ◆ **Cover the brake:** As you approach and prepare to enter the intersection, hover your foot over the brake, this allows for quicker and smoother response in the event of an immediate hazard.
- ◆ **Clear the intersection:** If you are planning to turn, ensure you have plenty of clearance to safely make the turn.
- ◆ **Make sure others see you:** As you near the intersection, allow others (including pedestrians) to see you and have time to react to your intentions (turning, stopping, going straight).
- ◆ **Prepare for the unexpected:** Other drivers can be unpredictable. Focus on the task of driving and continue to scan the area until after you have cleared any hazard related to the intersection.
- ◆ **Hesitate when the light turns green:** If you are stopped at a traffic light and the light turns green for you, hesitate for a second to scan the area for pedestrians or someone entering the intersection against the light.

1. <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/>

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