

SAFETY REMINDER

Rolling Stops/Intersections

Intersection accidents are common because there is rapidly changing speeds, directional changes, merging and cross traffic, hasty judgments, congestion, pedestrians and visibility problems. There are no other areas on our roadways that can consistently compete with intersections for high accident potential.

Many drivers take intersections for granted. Only a few drivers scan the dangerous area before entering them and do not come to a complete stop. Since they have gotten through thousands of intersections safely, most people give them little consideration. But intersections are particularly dangerous because the danger tends to come from all directions: from the front, from the sides and from the rear.

Because you can only deal with a problem if you first know it exists, the best defense against intersection hazards is eye activity. Scan intersections thoroughly before committing to them. Come to a complete stop at red lights and stop signs. Scan early for obvious problems and continue scanning as you draw closer for any hidden dangers.

Increased awareness is the first step to accident avoidance. Since there is often little time to react when you encounter the unexpected, you may need to stop or maneuver suddenly, and doing so requires space. Space isn't something you should be looking for when you need it. You should build the space around your vehicle in advance of the need, and you should know exactly where that space is. Plan ahead, do your homework. Intersections are no place to become complacent; they are far too dangerous.