

Since the inception of ICRMP in 1985, our most frequent cause of Property/Casualty claims has been auto claims. No other claim category comes close.

The bad news: crashes at intersections are frequent and severe for Idaho local government agencies. The good news is that intersection crashes can be reduced by focusing on safe driving!

Intersections

With different crossing and entering movements by both drivers and pedestrians, an intersection is one of the most complex traffic situations that motorists encounter. Dangers are compounded when we add the element of speeding motorists who disregard traffic controls. Because of this conflict opportunity, intersections represent a disproportionate share of the safety problem. About half of all crashes and half of all injury crashes occur at intersections.

Red-Light Running

Red-light running is a serious intersection safety issue. Red-light running crashes cause deaths and injuries. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that half of the people killed in red-light running crashes are not the signal violators. They are drivers and pedestrians hit by red-light runners. In a national survey of speeding and other unsafe driver actions, 97% of drivers feel that other drivers running red-lights are a major safety threat. One in three people claim they personally know someone injured or killed in a red-light running crash.

Source: US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

Three Driving Focuses at Intersections:

- Slow down before entering an intersection and look left-right-left. Don't enter an intersection that has not been visually cleared. Some drivers "cover" the brake by moving their foot for a few seconds from the accelerator to a position just above the brake pedal, helping eliminate reaction time needed to begin braking.
- Try to avoid entering an intersection within the first 3 seconds of a light change – the time in which the majority of collisions occur.
- Look left-right-left to be sure no one is running the red light and the road is clear of pedestrians.

Looking left-right-left, coming to a complete stop at a red light, and looking before crossing intersections are driving fundamentals that should be part of every driver's skill set.

Discuss:

1. Have you or someone you know had a "close call" at an intersection?
2. Have you ever driven through a red light? On purpose or by accident? Why?
3. Create a list of things a safe driver should do as he/she approaches an intersection.