

## **Providing safe and secure communities**

July 10, 2007

### **Safety junction - motorists need to use caution at intersections**

Edmonton... Motorists go through intersections many times a day and think little about it, but intersections are high-risk areas. Nearly half of all traffic-related injuries are the result of collisions at intersections.

Every year in Alberta, more than 400 people are killed in a collision and more than 24,000 are injured. Of these people, 80 are killed and more than 11,000 are injured in a collision at an intersection.

These statistics demand that drivers use extreme caution when approaching and driving through intersections and follow the rules of the road.

### **Drivers must be cautious at intersections and follow the rules of the road.**

- When approaching an intersection, always look for left-turning traffic.
- Before turning right, check for bicycles along the curb or sidewalk.
- If the light turns amber, stop before the crosswalk unless you cannot stop safely; don't speed up, trying to get through before the light turns red.
- At uncontrolled intersections, watch for vehicles that don't stop or yield; the law requires that the vehicle on the left yields the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right; this includes uncontrolled "T" intersections.
- When waiting to turn left at an intersection, a driver may enter the intersection to wait for traffic to clear but keep the vehicle's front wheels pointed straight ahead.
- A driver must come to a complete stop at a stop sign or red light or before making a right turn; the fine is \$287 plus three demerits.

### **Motorists must watch for pedestrians and:**

- yield the right of way to a pedestrian within a crosswalk; the fine is \$575 plus four demerits;
- yield the right of way to a pedestrian who intends to cross at a crosswalk, marked or unmarked, if the pedestrian, before leaving the curb, signals his/her intention to cross by holding their arm straight out and pointing across the road in the direction they want to go; the fine is \$115;
- watch for elderly pedestrians or people with disabilities who may take more time crossing the road; and
- never pass a vehicle that has stopped to allow pedestrians to cross a road.

Improving traffic safety is one of the actions under Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to provide Albertans with safe and secure communities. Other priorities for the government are to govern with integrity and transparency, improve Albertans' quality of life, manage growth pressures, and build a stronger Alberta. For more information about traffic safety, contact the Office of Traffic Safety at (780) 422-8839 or visit [www.saferoads.com](http://www.saferoads.com).

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