

*January 16, 2009*

## **Expect the unexpected at intersections**

*Edmonton...* Busy intersections are potential danger zones as vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists can all come together in unpredictable and unexpected ways.

In 2007, the last year for which statistics are available, 92 people were killed and 10,092 injured in collisions at intersections in Alberta. Speeding, running red lights and failing to yield to pedestrians often have tragic consequences. Motorists must be extra cautious when approaching and driving through intersections.

### **Tips to help you drive more safely through intersections:**

- At a stop sign, drivers are required to come to a complete stop before proceeding. This gives drivers the opportunity to look for oncoming traffic, pedestrians, or cyclists.
- Keep intersections clear so that other traffic may proceed if the light changes.
- Whenever possible, slow down safely at amber lights and prepare to stop your vehicle.
- When vehicles arrive at a four-way stop sign, courtesy is to allow the vehicle that arrived first to proceed first. If vehicles arrive simultaneously, right of way is given to the vehicle on the right, while left-turning vehicles yield to approaching traffic.
- When approaching an uncontrolled intersection, check left and right for traffic, slow down and be prepared to stop. Yield the right of way to the vehicle on the right.
- Slippery roads and limited visibility are common in winter so motorists must slow down. Also, avoid tail-gating other motorists and give them more time to safely stop at intersections.
- Pedestrians always have right of way at an unmarked intersection or stop sign unless otherwise indicated by signs.
- Give elderly pedestrians or disabled people more time to cross the road.
- Pedestrians may indicate their intention to cross the road by holding their arm straight and pointing across the road in the direction they intend to cross.
- Failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk carries a fine of \$575 plus 4 demerit points.

For more information, contact the Office of Traffic Safety at 780-422-8839 or your Regional Traffic Safety Coordinator. To find your local coordinator, visit the Saferoads website at [www.saferoads.com](http://www.saferoads.com) and click on Contact Us, then the [Regional Traffic Safety Coordinators link](#) on the left-hand side.

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