



# Intersection Safety Starts with You



## Intersections are Dangerous and Complex Places

Half of all crashes in cities and one-third of those in rural areas take place in an intersection. The numbers are high, and the results are deadly.

Engineers call intersections a planned point of conflict with multiple vehicles entering, exiting, turning, or going straight in a relatively small section of roadway. Pedestrians are often in the mix, and the situation can be compounded by speed and distraction. All of this movement creates opportunities for serious personal injury and huge property damage costs.

### Intersection Crash Outcomes Between 2006-2010

Outcome	Urban	Rural	TOTAL
Fatalities	725	797	1,522
Injuries	180,597	76,862	257,459
<b>TOTAL CRASHES</b>	<b>444,634</b>	<b>139,501</b>	<b>584,135</b>

## Safety is Our #1 Priority. Make it Yours.

ODOT is working on improved intersection design and more sophisticated traffic engineering measures to make our roads safer.

Still, the majority of intersection crashes are caused by driver mistakes. The most common mistakes include following too close to the next vehicle and failing to yield to oncoming traffic. It's up to all of us to stay alert.

Visit [www.everymove.ohio.gov](http://www.everymove.ohio.gov) for tips and safe driving information.

### Did You Know?

- Intersection crashes peak between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Drivers ages 15-25 comprise 35% of all intersection crashes.

**TIPS ON HOW TO  
SAFEGUARD YOURSELF  
FROM INTERSECTION  
CRASHES**





# BE SAFE at Intersections

Traffic signals manage intersections so drivers know when they have the right of way. Yet more crashes occur in intersections with a traffic signal than those without one. So look right, then left, then right again before you proceed. Drive defensively.

- 1. COMPLETE A FULL STOP AT A STOP SIGN.** Look for oncoming traffic from both directions before entering the intersection.

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- 2. STAY ON HIGH ALERT ENTERING AND EXITING AN INTERSECTION.** Put down the cell phone, don't worry about the radio and focus on your vehicle and others.

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- 3. STAY IN YOUR LANE IN AN INTERSECTION. IT'S THE LAW.** Changing lanes increases confusion and adds to the complexity of successfully navigating through an intersection. It is illegal in Ohio to pass a vehicle within 100 ft. of an intersection.

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- 4. GREEN FOR YOU DOESN'T MEAN OTHER VEHICLES STOPPED.** Red-light running, whether intentional or not, is a common occurrence at signalized intersections. When you have the green light, keep a sharp eye for cross traffic. Be sure to look both left and right before entering the intersection.

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- 5. USE YOUR BLINKER WHEN TURNING.** To turn safely in an intersection, signal your turn so other drivers are aware of your maneuver.

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- 6. PAY ATTENTION TO THE VEHICLE AHEAD OF YOU.** When a signal turns green, don't assume the vehicle ahead of you is ready to go. Wait for it to move before you accelerate.

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- 7. DON'T SPEED UP TO GET THROUGH A YELLOW LIGHT.** Yellow lights mean proceed with caution, not speed up to get through the intersection. Always stop at a yellow light if you can do so safely.

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- 8. MAINTAIN A SAFE STOPPING DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE CAR IN FRONT OF YOU.** The safe distance is a minimum of one car length for every 10 mph, or at least two seconds spacing between vehicles.

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- 9. TREAT A DARK SIGNAL AS AN ALL WAY STOP.** If a traffic signal is out, or damaged, it may be dark. Treat these signals as an All Way Stop – do not enter the intersection until it is safe, and it is your turn.

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- 10. REMEMBER THE RULE OF THE RIGHT.** When vehicles reach an All Way Stop or uncontrolled intersection at the same time, the car to the right has the right of way.