

TOOLBOX TALK 16/60

TOPIC: INTERSECTION ACCIDENTS

OBJECTIVE: TO ENSURE SAFETY AT TRAFFIC INTERSECTIONS

We all need to be reminded about the road safety. Too often we think of intersections as only intersecting streets or highways; however, they really involve any point at which two vehicles can intersect in their paths of travel. This includes:

- Private driveways
- Exits from freeways
- Exits and entrances to shopping malls, plants and sites

Here are some of the most common causes of intersection accidents:

- Speed too fast for conditions
- Poor visibility
- Insisting on the right-of-way
- Failure to scan intersecting streets and drives for hazards
- Distractions

Good defensive driving habits:

- ✓ Always use your indicator and make sure all your lights are clear and working.
- ✓ When drivers approach a street or drive, always scan as far as possible in both directions.
- ✓ If a vehicle is stopped at the intersection, they should watch the driver closely to see where they are looking.
- ✓ If the other vehicle does not see you, a friendly tap on the hooter can help to alert them.
- ✓ If you see a vehicle approaching that is not slowing down, take immediate defensive action.
- ✓ Develop the habit of “covering” the brake at intersections (foot off the gas and positioned above the brake pedal).
- ✓ If you must slow or stop, you have lessened reaction time and shortened the stopping distance.
- ✓ When a traffic light turns green, don’t charge right out into the other street. You may meet that other driver who doesn’t believe that yellow or red traffic lights are there for a reason.
- ✓ If another driver insists on taking the right-of-way, give it to them.

Questions you can use to get them talking:

- Where are the dangerous intersections near this job?
- Is there a problem getting in and out of this job?
What can be done about it?
- Has anyone ever had an accident – or know of one – involving an intersection?

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