

RED LIGHTS/STOP SIGNS

STATISTICS

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), "Each year more than 900 people die and nearly 200,000 are injured in crashes that involve running a red light. About half of the deaths are pedestrians and occupants in other vehicles who are hit by the red light runners."

"...stop sign violations are associated with approximately 200 fatal crashes and 17,000 Non- fatal crashes." ~ NHTSA 2012 statistics



INTRODUCTION

Running red lights and rolling through stop signs has grown measurably in the past few years. Since this unsafe behavior generally goes unchecked, the behavior becomes habitual and acceptable in many areas of the U.S.

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), "Overall, 55.8 percent of Americans admit to running red lights. Yet ninety-six percent of drivers fear they will get hit by a red light runner when they enter an intersection." Other facts from their web site:



- One in three people claim they personally know someone who has been injured or killed in a red-light-running crash ~ similar to the percentage of people who know someone who was killed or injured by a drunk driver.
- Only 15.8% of respondents cited those reasons ["frustration" and "road rage"], while nearly half (47.8%) admitted to being prompted by nothing more complicated than **being in a hurry**.
- Red light runners do not conform to any set demographics – this dangerous practice reaches across Vehicle drivers' of every age, economic group and gender. The violators are everyday people: business professionals, blue-collar workers, the unemployed, homemakers, parents, and young adults.

Many cities and states have begun installing cameras at key intersections to photograph vehicles that run red lights. The studies that have been done show a dramatic decrease in collisions. More cameras will likely be installed every year.

If one of your neighbors continued to run stop signs in your neighborhood where your kids play, how would you feel?

SUMMARY

- Saving a few seconds per intersection (very few minutes over the course of a day) is just not worth endangering the lives of yourself and others.
- Always look ahead to anticipate light changes: both sudden acceleration to make a light or hard braking to stop short can lead to trouble
- Driving too fast for conditions is sometimes the cause of running a red light/stop sign so modify how you drive in poor weather or when you are late.
- Remember that the person that you endanger by running that light is someone's loved one. Always put Vehicle safety first!