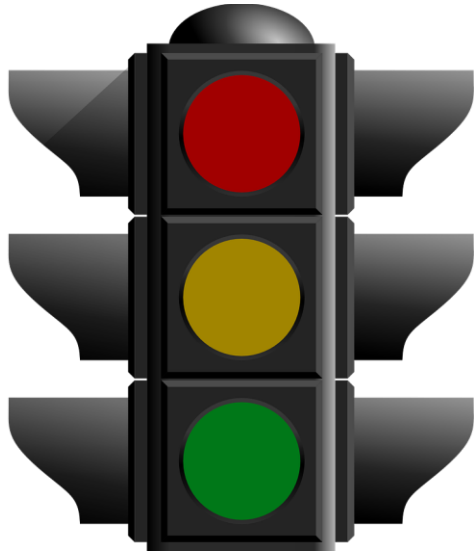


Handling Intersections



According to the Federal Highway Commission 40 % of all accidents nationwide are intersection related. Most of those accidents occur during the execution of a left turn. It is important for new drivers as well as their parents to understand proper protocol when dealing with intersections. There are two basic categories of intersections in the US they are:

1. **Controlled Intersections**- An intersection where there are signs and lights to help regulate all travel.
2. **Uncontrolled Intersections**- Intersections where there are no signs or lights to assist us with our travel.

Uncontrolled intersections are usually found in rural or suburban areas where there is less traffic. These intersections use basic right of way laws to control traffic. Here are the two rules to always follow at an uncontrolled intersection:

1. A vehicle entering a roadway from an alleyway, driveway or private road must yield right of way to traffic on the main roadway.

2. Vehicles approaching an **uncontrolled intersection** at the same time must yield right of way to the car on the right.

Controlled Intersections are further broken down into **protected** and **unprotected** intersections.

1. A **protected intersection** displays a green arrow in order to safely allow a vehicle to make a left hand turn in preference to oncoming traffic.
2. An **unprotected intersection** does not display an arrow in order to protect the left hand turn. This situation becomes a major problem for new drivers. Handling this type of intersection needs to be properly taught by both driving instructors and parents. Here's what you need to know:
 - a) Right of way law states that "a vehicle in the intersection has the right of way over a vehicle preparing to enter the intersection."
 - b) If the light is red stop behind and stop lines or crosswalks and wait for the light to turn green. Once it turns green, pull under the light with your wheels straight (if your wheels were turned and you were hit from behind you would be sent into oncoming traffic.) Once traffic clears, keep the front end of the car out and execute your turn.
 - c) If the light is green when you approach the intersection, you have a decision to make: 1. if there is little traffic, move under the light and wait for traffic to clear, and then execute your turn or 2. if traffic is heavy stop in the appropriate area, and wait for the next cycle of lights in order to execute your turn.

Here are a few common **right of way laws** that every driver, young and old should be familiar with:

1. A car going straight ahead has right of way over a vehicle turning left.
2. Fire engines, ambulances and all other emergency vehicles have the right of way over all traffic. (Slow down and move to the right side of the road).
3. Pedestrians in cross walks have the right of way over all vehicles (pedestrians have the right of anytime they are in the road for that matter.)
4. Vehicles already in a traffic circle have the right of way over those preparing to enter. Traffic circles are springing up all over the country, so

make sure you know how to handle them. They have been found to be safer and cut down on severe accidents, but there is a major learning curve since many new drivers do not know how to use them.

5. If two cars get to a four way stop intersection at the same time, the car on the right has the right of way.

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