

## Tailgate Meeting Guide: Intersection Safety

Intersections are points of significant traffic tension. A variety of traffic types – vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists – converge, pause and continue, often in a new direction. As traffic flow changes, humans must make split-second decisions and take precise actions to be successful. It's perhaps not surprising that about 60% of crashes happen at intersections<sup>1</sup>. Use the information and resources below to lead a discussion about intersection safety, and what employees can do to avoid hazards and prevent collisions.

### Get the facts

1. Over the last five years, some 470,000 crashes have occurred at BC intersections<sup>1</sup>.
2. On average, those crashes have resulted in 60,000 injured victims and 73 fatalities per year.
3. About 78% of those crashes occurred in the Lower Mainland.
4. Since 2012, the number of intersection crashes has increased 50% to 120,000 in 2016.
5. Most intersection-related offences result in a fine of \$167 and two (2) penalty points.
6. The probability of pedestrian death increases exponentially with speed. At an impact speed of:
  - 40 km/h the probability of pedestrian death is approximately 20 per cent
  - 60 km/h the probability of pedestrian death is approximately 78 per cent
  - 80 km/h pedestrian death is virtually certain<sup>2</sup>.

### Tips for preventing intersection collisions

#### When approaching an intersection

- Pay extra attention when approaching every intersection. Treat each one as a driving-critical moment.
- Scan the intersection before you enter it so you are aware of the hazards – cyclists, pedestrians, other motorists - and know what you will do to avoid them.
- Check your mirrors and look around – another driver might be making a move you need to know about.
- If you did not see the light ahead turn green, you don't know when it will turn yellow. Be ready to stop.
- A yellow light means prepare to stop or clear the intersection. Proceed through a yellow light only if it's unsafe to stop.
- If you are planning to make a turn, make sure you are in the correct lane well before the intersection.
- Always use your turn signals before changing lanes.
- Don't change lanes in an intersection.
- Passengers – briefly suspend conversations so the driver can focus on safely getting through the intersection. Scan the surroundings and alert the driver to hazards you don't think they have noticed.

#### When stopping at an intersection

- If you're the first car to stop— make sure you stop behind the stop line or crosswalk.
- Plan for a gentle stop rather than slamming on the brakes “just in time”. Come to a complete stop.
- Leave enough space between you and the vehicle ahead. You should be able to see the rear wheels of the vehicle ahead.

- Make eye contact with pedestrians so they know you have seen them and it is safe for them to proceed. Do the same for other drivers, motorcycle riders and cyclists.

### When it's your turn to go

- As the light turns green, look left and right to scan the intersection, crosswalks and sidewalks. Check for cross-traffic before moving forward. It takes only two or three seconds and might save someone's life.
- If traffic is backed up, don't enter the intersection unless you can see room for your vehicle on the other side of the intersection.
- Don't change your safe driving practices to accommodate impatient or aggressive drivers.
- Accelerate evenly to fit in with traffic flow.
- Always be ready to yield the right-of-way to another vehicle, motorcyclist, pedestrian or cyclist.

### Pedestrians

- Pay attention to your surroundings. Remove headphones and put away your cell phone before crossing the street.
- Always use crosswalks and pedestrian-activated signals when they are available.
- Even when the pedestrian signal is green, check traffic before stepping off the sidewalk.
- Establish eye contact to make sure motorists see you before you step in front of them. A courteous driver will provide a hand gesture to confirm they are giving right of way to the pedestrian.

### Tailgate Meeting Discussion Topics and Activities

1. Talk about the high crash frequency intersections your employees use. If you're unsure, use the [ICBC Intersection Crash Maps](#). Start a discussion to find out how your employees can choose routes to avoid those intersections, or avoid them at the riskiest times of the day.
2. Ask employees to talk about their intersection experiences, especially near misses. What were the circumstances and conditions? What did they do? What would they do differently?
3. Challenge staff to try these quizzes. Discuss questions and answers, especially the ones most got wrong.  
[ICBC DriveSmart Quiz](#)   [ICBC Practice Knowledge Quiz](#)   [Richmond Library Driving Quiz](#)
4. Watch a video.  
[ICBC Driving Tips – Intersection Safety](#)   [Left Hand Turn Demonstration](#)  
[Rules of the Road #6](#)   [Rules of the Road #7](#)   [Merging onto a Freeway](#)   [Zipper Merge](#)  
[Who Has the Right of Way](#)   [Signalling in Roundabouts](#)   [Brazilian Crosswalk Enforcement](#)

#### Sources

- 1 – [ICBC Quick Statistics Intersections](#)
- 2 – [Capital Region Intersection Safety Partnership](#)

The information contained in this document is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to provide legal or other advice to you, and you should not rely upon the information to provide any such advice. We believe the information provided is accurate and complete; however, we do not provide any warranty, express or implied, of its accuracy or completeness. Neither WorkSafeBC, nor the Justice Institute of British Columbia nor Road Safety at Work shall be liable in any manner or to any extent for any direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages, losses or expenses arising out of the use of this form. April 2018