



MAKE SAFE TURNS A PRIORITY

We drive every day. It becomes a mundane task, and many of us feel we are on auto-pilot. A person is driving along, he slows down, signals and suddenly--- CRASH! Dazed, he thinks “wow, that came out of NOWHERE!” It happens to the best of us. While turning a corner may seem like a simple operation, crashes at intersections cause more fatalities than any other type of crash location (NSC).

PREPARING TO TURN

It is extremely important to be alert when preparing for your turn. Use basic defensive driving techniques to ensure the safety of you and your passengers, as well as surrounding pedestrians and drivers.

- Look for oncoming traffic that may not be slowing. Be aware of emergency vehicles, merging or expanding lanes, and pedestrians. Check your mirrors every three to five seconds so you can anticipate the flow of traffic.
- Yield the right-of-way. If you have the right-of-way but someone else tries to claim it, allow him or her to do so. Your first priority should be the safety of you and your passengers.
- Control your speed to prepare yourself for unseen hazards.

TIPS FOR MAKING A SAFE TURN

- **Signal.** You should signal at least 100 feet before an intersection. On highways, signal up to 500 feet in advance. Signaling ahead of time gives other drivers time to see your signal before you move. Never make last minute turns.
- Move to the proper lane well in advance of the intersection. Look behind and to both sides to see where other vehicles are before turning.
- Move to the correct lane. For right turns you should be in the lane next to the right edge of the roadway. On a two lane road with traffic in both directions, an approach for a left turn should be made in the part of the right half of the roadway nearest to the center line.
- **Slow down gradually** - DO NOT slam on your brakes.
- **Make a complete stop** and look in all directions. Stop before the thick white stop line on the pavement, the Stop sign, or before a crosswalk. If you overshoot the stop line, sign, or crosswalk, do not back up the car. There may already be pedestrians crossing behind you or a vehicle may not anticipate that you will reverse. If you cannot see traffic coming because of obstructions, make a complete stop at the stop line, sign, or crosswalk, and move up slowly until you have a sufficient view.
- **Yield to pedestrians** crossing your path and to other vehicles coming from the opposite direction.
- Stay in your lane when making the turn.
- **Cancel your turn signal** once the turn is completed.

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