Driving Safely Through Intersections

Use this guide to lead a discussion with employees about the hazards they may encounter when driving through intersections. It can help them understand how to reduce their risk of collisions. Use any of the suggested key points in your talk. Use the form on Page 3 to record meeting details. Consider printing this guide and giving it to drivers.

Why is this topic important?

Key points

- About 20% of all crashes reported to ICBC every year occur at intersections
- Work-related vehicle crashes are the leading cause or traumatic workplace fatalities in BC
- The chance that a pedestrian or cyclist will die from a collision with a vehicle increases as the driver's speed increases. At an impact speed of:
  a) 40km/h the probability of pedestrian death is approximately 20%
  b) 60km/h the probability of pedestrian death is approximately 78%
  c) 80km/h the probability of pedestrian death is almost certain
- You can't influence what others do on the road, but you can take steps to reduce your risk of being in a crash.

Why are intersections hazardous?

Key points

- Vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists all converge, pause, and continue in intersections, often heading in a new direction. As traffic flow changes, drivers must make split-second decisions.
- Running a red light is one of the most common intersection collision causes

How to drive safely in an intersection

Key points

When approaching an intersection

- Scan for hazards and make a plan to avoid them
- Assume the traffic light can turn yellow at any moment
- Proceed through a yellow light only if it's unsafe to stop
- Make sure you are in the correct turning lane
- Pause conversations with passengers to maintain focus

When stopping at an intersection

- Stop behind the stop line or crosswalk, not in front of it
- Gently come to a complete stop instead of slamming on the brakes
- Leave enough space so you can see the rear wheels of the car ahead
- Make eye contact with pedestrians so they know it's safe for them to proceed

Tailgate Meeting Guide

When the light turns green

- Look left and right to check for cross-traffic before moving forward
- Hold off entering the intersection until you can see room for your vehicle on the other side
- Maintain your safe driving practices when faced with impatient or aggressive drivers
- Accelerate evenly to fit with traffic flow
- Avoid lane changes in an intersection
- Always be ready to yield the right-of-way to another vehicle, pedestrian, or cyclist

When crossing intersections as a pedestrian

- Pay attention to your surroundings
- Avoid distractions by removing your headphones and putting your phone away
- Always use crosswalks and pedestrian-activated signals when they are available
- Don't assume vehicles can see you or will stop for you
- Check for traffic before stepping off the sidewalk, even when you have right of way
- Make eye contact with drivers before stepping onto the road in front of them

Tailgate meeting activities and resources

- 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
- Challenge staff to try the ICBC Practice Knowledge Quiz. Discuss questions and answers, especially the ones most people got wrong
- Use the ICBC Intersection Crash Map tool to find high-risk intersections your employees use
- Review RoadSafetyAtWork.ca resources

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 for such purposes. While we believe the information provided is accurate and complete, the Road Safety at Work Alliance ("RSAWA") does not provide any warranty, express or implied, of its accuracy or completeness. Neither RSAWA, nor any of its partner organizations including Justice Institute of British Columbia or WorkSafeBC 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 document. (Updated 08-2025)

Tailgate Meeting Guide

Road Safety At Work

Tailgate meeting record form:

Date:	**Time:**	**Location:**
Supervisor:	**Discussion leader(s):**	
Topic:		
Handouts:		
Discussion:		
Follow-up item:	**Completion date:**	
Follow-up item:	**Completion date:**	
Follow-up item:	**Completion date:**	
Follow-up item:	**Completion date:**	
Follow-up item:	**Completion date:**	

Notes:

Tailgate meeting participants:

Name	Signature