



# Seeing Red-Light Running

In 2014, over 3.7 million drivers in the U.S. ran a red light, with a large percentage of these violations occurring over the peak summer travel weekends of Memorial Day (37,800), July 4th (34,522) and Labor Day (35,118). [Red-light running](#) is a serious safety issue, often with severe repercussions. In 2013, 697 people were killed and an estimated 127,000 were injured in crashes associated with drivers disobeying red lights.

Red-light running involves distracted or aggressive driving, and, at times, road rage. If a vehicle proceeds through an intersection after the light has turned red, that is a red-light violation. If a driver fails to come to a complete stop when right-turn-on-red is permitted, that, too, is a violation. Right-turn-on-red violations often involve pedestrian and bicyclist collisions, especially when the vehicle turning is a large truck or bus.

## Don't Rely On Signals Alone

As you approach an intersection,

even when you have a green light, don't let your guard down.

- Scan as far as you can in all directions to spot hazards early enough to react.
- Don't tailgate. Doing so may prevent you from seeing the traffic signals ahead and you may enter the intersection when the light is red.
- Watch for "stale green" lights – those that have been green for some time – and be prepared to slow down. Take your foot off the gas and cover your brake in case the lights change to yellow or red. The earlier you anticipate the need to stop, the better control you will have over the vehicle.
- Be on the lookout for flashing "Don't Walk" signs, which indicate that a green light is preparing to turn red.
- Pace yourself by slowing down and covering the brake. It can help avoid a hard brake situation and a rear-end collision.
- Be patient and remember that a yellow or amber light does not mean speed up. It means that the light is about to turn red and

that you should be prepared to stop.

## More Tips

If you are stopped at a red light and first at the intersection, hesitate before moving after the traffic signal turns green. It allows time for crossing pedestrians to clear the walkway, and helps avoid any red-light runners speeding through the cross street and into your path. When stopped at a red light behind another vehicle, wait to proceed until the vehicle ahead has moved a few feet as the driver may be forced to stop suddenly for a red-light runner.

For additional information on safety, driver training or regulatory issues, [contact us](#) today!

We cannot foresee every situation you may encounter, and the suggestions made here may not apply to every possible circumstance. While we make a good faith effort to advise you, your own skill and ability to assess risks you face are critical to your safety.