

AUGUST 2022 CCDC SAFETY MESSAGE

August recognizes National Stop on Red Week 8/7-13, 2022

The National Coalition for Safer Roads recognizes National Stop on Red Week from August 7 -13, 2022. They offer the following information for consideration while driving.

Between 2008-2020, an estimated 10,155 people were killed in crashes related to red-light running, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In 2020, 928 people were killed, a 10% increase from 2019.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) found that about half of red-light running crash deaths involve pedestrians, cyclists and occupants in vehicles struck by the red-light runners.

Safe enforcement technology saves lives. Road safety camera systems change dangerous driving behavior for meaningful, positive impact to help reduce preventable traffic-related dangers for all road users. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), road safety camera systems have been shown to reduce the red-light crash fatality rate in large cities by 21 percent and by 14 percent at signalized intersections.

Activities to reduce injuries and fatalities include more focus on implementing safer road designs, utilizing technology, and educating drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists in communities across the U.S. These activities have reduced injuries associated with red-light running. In 2020, an estimated 115,741 were injured in crashes involving red-light running, a 22% reduction from 2019.

Current 2021 Trends in Red-Light Running (data from 168 red-light safety camera programs) are as follows:

- More drivers ran red lights in July than any other month.
- More than 1.3 million red-light running violations occurred during the hours of 1-5 pm.
- Independence Day Weekend was the highest-ranked holiday travel period for red-light running.
- More than 4.2 million drivers ran red lights in 2021.

You can help by being an observant and driving in the moment. You may have become used to a light being red for a certain length of time and used that to your advantage.

New automated traffic congestion control systems often mean that familiar intersections no longer have “routine” traffic patterns. Many newer intersection lights now use sensing systems to change that light timing. Traffic light length and intersection access may vary from hour to hour and day to day depending on the actual traffic flow.

Do not count on your habits to safely get you through an intersection. Concentrate on the traffic flow around the intersection as well as your speed and the traffic signals. Do not become the red-light runner or more importantly the victim of a red-light runner.

THINK SMART, BE AWARE, BE FLEXIBLE, BE EDUICATED (SAFE)