

PestSure Safety

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

Tips

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

The Left Turn

There can be no disputing the fact that a left turn increases your exposure to a potential accident. The oncoming traffic, the cross traffic, and the traffic behind you all must be aware of your maneuver and behave accordingly to allow you to safely execute this turn.

The most immediate danger when negotiating a left turn at an intersections comes from the traffic from the left on the cross street. Look left, then right, then left again before proceeding into the intersection. Typically, red light runners arrive at the intersection within approximately 4 seconds of the light change. You will want to avoid this runner by staying out of his way.

Once out in the intersection, yield to all oncoming traffic. Even if the oncoming traffic is a red-light runner, you will be well served to yield right of way. Never make a blind left turn. Be certain all oncoming traffic is stopped or stopping. If you can't see that all lanes of oncoming traffic have stopped, don't initiate the turn. Never proceed through a left turn if you are unable to clearly see all lanes oncoming. Don't risk making a blind left turn only to be broadsided by someone racing through the intersection on a yellow light.

Remember to look ahead through your turn. If you are making your left turn when there is a break in traffic, you will want to be certain you can complete the turn in the space provided. Pedestrians in a cross walk or cars backed up on the street you are turning onto can leave you stuck in the oncoming lane of traffic with no escape.

While waiting to complete your left turn, keep your wheels pointed straight ahead. If a driver behind you fails to see that you are stopped in traffic waiting to initiate your turn, he may run into the rear of your vehicle. If your wheels are straight ahead, chances are less that this rear-end collisions will bump you into the path of the oncoming traffic.

When planning your route of travel for the day, try to avoid making left turns at busy intersections where your hazard is increased. Often you are aware of traffic spots in your locale that are high hazard areas. Avoid hazardous areas by planning your route and keep the task of driving top of mind.

