

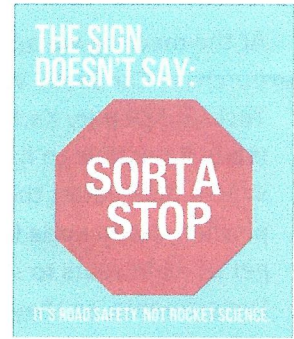
You Betcha!!

STOP....OR YOU CAN DIE!

What do you do at a STOP sign? Do you make complete stops, just keep rolling if no one is close or just ignore it entirely? One would assume that if a person has a driver's license, that they know the Rules of the Road. The most common one is what to do at a STOP sign. You do what it says. Pretty simple, "a cessation of movement". Maybe that is not so simple to understand, in this day and age.

I sat south of the intersection of CR 5 (goes N/S) & CR4 (goes E/W) and observed for over 4 hours. CR 4 has Flashing LED STOP signs with STOP signs on the left side of the road also and CR5 has no traffic control devices. I surveyed the vehicles making full stops, rolling stops and running the STOP signs.

Some driver's are out of control and ON OUR ROADS! Don't believe it? Well, let's look at some data from my observations.



	FULL STOP		ROLL STOP		RUN STOP SIGN	
CARS	EB-39	WB-34	EB-10	WB-15	EB-7	WB-4
SUV	EB-66	WB-53	EB-43	WB-33	EB-6	WB-9
PICKUP	EB-39	WB-29	EB-27	WB-15	EB-8	WB-5
SEMI	EB-10	WB-9	EB-2	WB-1	EB-0	WB-0
TOTALS:	EB-154	WB-77	EB-82	WB-64	EB-21	WB-23

1 Car ran a STOP sign in front of a pickup on CR5.

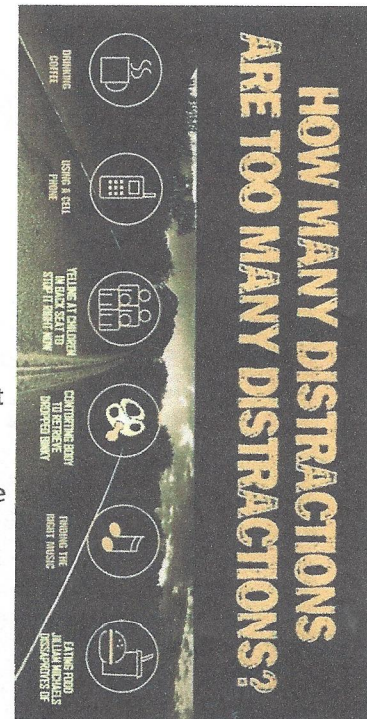
2 Pickups pulling trailers ran STOP signs in front of vehicles on CR5 that were close enough to make me second guess that I was in a safe location.

One thing that stood out was that a majority of the vehicles that made a full stop seemed to do it only because of approaching traffic. Many had abrupt stops. Then, when the first vehicle went, there were times when the vehicles behind them followed them into the intersection and never made their stops.

So, now you can see the problem. This is only 4.25 hours of 1 day, at 1 intersection. Do you think this is happening at other intersections? Of course it is. So what can we do to be safe? Everyone needs to start driving defensively. You should not assume the other driver will do what is expected. I slow down, even when I have right of way, when I see another vehicle coming in HOT. We need to be cautious as you come up to any intersection. Be vigilant and observe. Are there any pedestrians in the area, does anyone have a traffic control device, is a vehicle approaching the intersection at a fast pace, are you covering your brake at uncontrolled intersections? Try to do what you can to be safe and make sure that you are making those complete stops, to set an example. So much to do and so little time.

**NEVER ASSUME THE OTHER DRIVER WILL STOP
& MAKE SURE YOU ARE FOCUSED ON JUST DRIVING!!**

By Mary Erickson Renville County Toward Zero Deaths Coordinator



IS THIS DISTRACTING?