



10-4

A weekly Q&A
with the Owatonna
Police Department

Submit your question to news@owatonna.com or 444-2379

Q: I notice that vehicles, when making a right turn on red at a stop light approach the intersection and make the turn without even slowing down. Aren't all vehicles supposed to stop before making the right turn on a red light?

A: Yes. State law allows drivers to go ahead and make a right turn on red after coming to a complete stop prior to making the turn. Any vehicle that fails to come to a complete stop is subject to a citation much the same as if they went through a stop light. Drivers are also only able to make the turn if the intersection is clear, and they must yield to any traffic that is approaching from their left that has a green light. Drivers must bring their vehicles to a complete stop before they make the turn. It does not mean, "I should hurry up and go so I do not have to wait," either. This law is somewhat of a compromise to allow vehicles making a right turn to proceed before the light for their direction of travel turns green. As with any turn, all drivers must practice safe driving skills whenever we are entering another roadway.

169.06 SIGNS, SIGNALS, MARKINGS.

(3) Steady red indication:

(i) Vehicular traffic facing a circular red signal alone must stop at a clearly marked stop line

but, if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then

before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until a green indication is shown,

except as follows: (A) the driver of a vehicle stopped as close as practicable at the entrance to the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then at the entrance to the intersection in obedience to a red or stop signal, and with the intention of making a right turn may make the right turn, after stopping, unless an official sign has been erected prohibiting such movement, but shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic lawfully proceeding as directed by the signal at that intersection...

Chuck Walerlus
Captain