

"For safety's sake—do something."

Traveling in the Sun



At this time of year, the sun is rising just as many people are headed to work or school. Those driving eastbound often put their visors down very low to block the sun. While this helps them see the road, it also limits their field of view. Since many intersections have only the overhead traffic lights (lacking the lights mounted at “street-level”), it turns out that putting the visor in the low position means they can’t see the traffic light. Recently, a driver did not even slow down for the red light, at a busy intersection, and blew right through it! Fortunately, the other drivers saw him coming and no one was hurt, but it could have turned out differently. Being aware of the sun’s impact on eastbound drivers is worthwhile for drivers entering intersections from any direction.

There is another risk when the sun is low in the sky besides traffic lights. In the morning, drivers entering from driveways or side streets can be blinded by the sun when looking to the east. There have been many accidents from being blinded by the sunlight. People are hurt and property is damaged. With the sun's glare, drivers must pay extra attention to ensuring that they can see oncoming traffic or other obstacles. There are many other situations other than oncoming traffic, like bicyclists, walkers, and runners that can also be struck from not being able to see clearly.

Theoretically, the problem is the same when the sun sets in the evening for those traveling westbound. When the sun is setting, the same glare can cause problems but as the sun is getting lower, the sun visor is not going to work. At some point, you will need some tinted glasses to block the glare and allow you to see clearly. It is suggested that your glasses have an Ultra Violet (UV) block on them, plus be the darkest tint possible for you to be safe. Drivers must consider all conditions for safe driving and the sun is just one of many.

Drive safe because the sun will be out tomorrow!!



Keep an eye out and remember,

Safety Scott says,

**"Safety always is
ALWAYS!"**

