

MEDIA RELEASE

Town of Blackfalds – Municipal Enforcement Services

Understanding What “Stopping at a Stop Sign” Really Means

Blackfalds Municipal Enforcement Services is reminding all motorists of the importance of making a **full and complete stop** at all posted stop signs. Recent patrols have identified an increase in “rolling stops,” which continue to be one of the most common—and preventable—traffic safety concerns within the community.

A **proper stop** means that a vehicle’s wheels have come to a complete halt. This must occur **before** the stop line, crosswalk, or—if none are present—before entering the intersection. Slowing down, pausing briefly, or rolling forward does **not** meet the legal requirement of a stop.

Why Stopping Matters

Stop signs are installed to protect all road users, including other drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Coming to a full stop provides drivers with the necessary time to:

- Look in all directions
- Assess cross-traffic
- Watch for pedestrians
- Enter the intersection safely

Failing to stop fully—especially at residential and multi-directional intersections—significantly increases the risk of collisions.

What Officers Look For

Peace Officers actively monitor stop-sign compliance and look for the following:

- The vehicle must fully stop with **no forward movement**
- The stop must occur **before the stop line or crosswalk**
- The driver must take sufficient time to **observe** the intersection before proceeding

A rolling stop, even at very low speed, is considered an offence and may result in enforcement action.

Common Misunderstandings

Municipal Enforcement frequently hears misconceptions from motorists, such as:

- “I slowed down, so it counts as a stop.”
- “No one else was around.”
- “I paused for a second.”

The Traffic Safety Act is clear: **drivers must come to a complete stop every time, regardless of traffic or visibility conditions.**

Committed to Community Safety

Our goal is education first and enforcement when necessary. By following proper stopping procedures, drivers help keep neighbourhoods safe and contribute to a predictable and respectful driving environment.

Residents with questions regarding traffic laws or enforcement practices are encouraged to contact Municipal Enforcement Services for more information.