

Intersection Traffic Laws Observation

On Saturday, October 15th from 4:35 pm - 5:05 pm, I observed the intersection (17th Street & 450th Avenue), which is on the southwest corner of my property east of Preston, Iowa. Below are pictures of the intersection from all views.

East View



North View



West View



South View



Observational Data

I collected the following data :

<u>Cars</u>	<u>Trucks</u>	<u>Tractors</u>	<u>Semi-Trucks</u>	<u>SUV</u>
<u>Stopped</u> 3	<u>Stopped</u> 1	<u>Stopped</u> 0	<u>Stopped</u> 0	<u>Stopped</u> 0
<u>No-Stop</u> 3	<u>No-Stop</u> 11	<u>No-Stop</u> 0	<u>No-Stop</u> 1	<u>No-Stop</u> 1
<u>No-Signal</u> 2	<u>No-Signal</u> 7	<u>No-Signal</u> 0	<u>No-Signal</u> 0	<u>No-Signal</u> 1
<u>U-Turn</u> 1	<u>U-Turn</u> 1	<u>U-Turn</u> 0	<u>U-Turn</u> 0	<u>U-Turn</u> 0

Conclusion

In total, 20 vehicles went through the intersection (with me cleaning up downed tree debris in plain sight). The significant observations were that 11 trucks did not stop, but instead sometimes slowed down and yielded. This may be due to this intersection only being graveled until about 5 years ago. I even had a River Valley natural gas semi-truck blow through the intersection with no attempt to slow down. The cars were a little less unlawful, but the percentages of non-violators were 50%. Regardless, they were all violations.

As a side note, I have had the local police officer sit in our driveway before on New Year's Eve to monitor the intersection. In a half hour, he issued 5 citations. This road connects two bars between two little towns (Preston and Miles). On weekends, it is not uncommon for vehicles to not slow down and go through the intersection close to 55 mph. The road also connects the high school to the gymnasium where basketball and the field where baseball is played. Students will drive recklessly through this area after school on the way to practice. This data did not surprise me at all, and I definitely see this intersection being an issue that needs to be resolved before someone gets seriously injured or killed.