

# S A F E T Y F O C U S

Published by The National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running



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CAMPAIGN TO STOP  
RED LIGHT RUNNING  
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*This issue focuses on the Campaign's work on improving a new federal guide to red light cameras, a 2004 Stop on Red Week update, and two recent incidents where red light cameras have demonstrated their value to law enforcement.*

## Campaign Responds To Revised Federal Guide

The National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running has been involved in the process to revise the federal publication formerly called "Guidance for Using Red Light Cameras" being produced jointly by the Federal Highway Administration and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Campaign Advisory Board has been concerned that the previously produced version did not accurately reflect the practical lessons learned and extensive research that has been conducted on red light camera technology.

Selected passages, excerpted out of context, had also been used on several occasions by opponents of photo enforcement technology to try and portray the federal government as opposing the use of red light cameras.

After a meeting with Campaign members in July, NHTSA allowed the Campaign to review the final draft of the document and offer suggestions. Comments were solicited from members of the Advisory Board and then consolidated into a single response. Comments were also solicited from the Highway Safety Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

"We were very pleased to see that numerous changes had been made in the document that incorporated feedback received from us regarding the earlier version, particularly in the affirmation of the key role

*(continued on page 2)*

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that driver behavior plays in red light running and the effectiveness of red light cameras in deterring this behavior,” said Campaign Executive Director Leslie Blakey.

In a July 30<sup>th</sup> response to NHTSA, the Advisory Board noted that the revised document, “does a better job of explaining that photo enforcement programs can be very effective in improving safety.”

The revised document will undergo a final staff review at both federal agencies before it is distributed to the public in printed and electronic versions. The latest update from NHTSA officials indicated that this would likely happen in late September.



**HAVING A STOP ON  
RED WEEK EVENT?  
LET US KNOW  
ABOUT IT.  
CALL 202-828-9100**

## **National Stop on Red Week 2004 August 30-September 6, 2004**

The National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running is teaming up with local red light running prevention groups and Major League Baseball teams in three cities to mark National Stop on Red Week. The Campaign will hold morning news events at dangerous intersections in Phoenix, AZ, Los Angeles, and San Diego followed by Stop on Red Night at the Ballpark events with the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Anaheim Angels and the San Diego Padres.

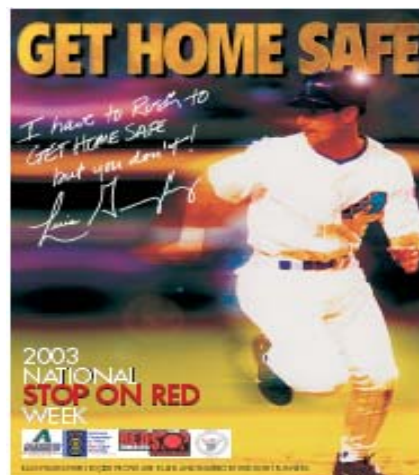
High profile players from each baseball team have agreed to participate in a poster and billboard campaign with a “Get Home Safe” theme. The posters will be given to fans as they enter the stadium and billboards will be placed in each city, courtesy of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America.

### **Our 2004 Lineup!**

**Kelvim Escobar**  
**Anaheim Angels**  
Birthdate: April 11, 1976  
Hometown: La Guaira, Venezuela  
Full Name: Kelvim Jose Escobar  
MLB Debut: 1997  
Bats: Right  
Throws: Left

**Casey Fossum**  
**Arizona Diamondbacks**  
Birthdate: January 6, 1978  
Hometown: Cherry Hill, NJ  
Full Name: Casey Paul Fossum  
MLB Debut: 2001  
Bats: Both  
Throws: Left

**David Wells**  
**San Diego Padres**  
Birthdate: May 20, 1963  
Hometown: San Diego, CA  
Full Name: David Lee Wells  
MLB Debut: 1987  
Bats: Left  
Throws: Left



Our 2003 Arizona poster

## **2004 NATIONAL STOP ON RED WEEK EVENTS**

**August 29th**  
Anaheim Angels  
1:00 p.m. game

**August 30th**  
Los Angeles morning press conference

**August 31st**  
Arizona Diamondbacks  
Morning press conference  
6:30 p.m. game

**September 3rd**  
San Diego Padres  
Morning press conference  
7:00 p.m. game

# RED LIGHT CAMERAS IN ACTION

## Winnipeg, Manitoba

### *Red Light Camera Captures Boy's Close Call With Minivan*

Reprinted with permission from the *Winnipeg Free Press*

By Bruce Owen

A 38-year-old St. Vital mom is crediting one of the city's intersection safety cameras for tracking down the owner of a minivan that narrowly missed hitting her son 10 days ago.

The woman, who did not want to be identified, said the camera at St. Mary's Road and Warde Avenue took a picture July 6 of a minivan speeding through a red light as her six-year-old son rode his bicycle across the street. Police released two photos yesterday of the incident.

"In this situation, there's definitely a value to the cameras," the mother said. "It was able to catch the van going through a red light and speeding. If that camera wasn't there, and if the situation was worse, we wouldn't have been able to do anything."

A police spokesperson said the pictures demonstrate why the city adopted photo enforcement. "We want people to know why we're out there," the spokesperson said.

The mother said she and her son were riding home from a park about 12:15 p.m. when they came to the intersection. The light had changed and she and her son had the right of way to cross.

Police say the light had been red for nine seconds — the amber is four seconds — when the burgundy van approached the intersection, but did not stop. The mother said she watched the vehicle out of the corner of her eye as it continued through the light on a collision course with her son.

"I let out a frantic scream," she said. "I told him to turn his bike. Thank God he turned the right way."

The van's driver kept on going, apparently unaware he or she almost hit the child.



**The image captured by the red light camera**

"We both fell down crying," she said. "Two other people who witnessed it stopped and asked if we were OK. My son said his handlebars touched the van."

She also said one of the witnesses told her the camera flashed when the van went through the red light — the driver was also going 14 kilometres above the 60 km/h speed limit. So she called police and asked if a picture had been taken. Police recovered the film, developed it and called her back to say the driver would be charged with speeding and running a red light. The driver faces a \$155 fine for going through the red light and a \$105 fine for speeding.

"There would be nothing if a picture hadn't been taken," the mother said. The camera is one of 24 currently in operation throughout the city. Twelve more are being installed this summer. Police also used five mobile photo radar vans to catch speeders.

Currently, the legal wording that regulates the intersection cameras is being challenged in the courts. A decision is expected Nov. 15.

More than 218,000 tickets have been sent out and more than \$17.3 million in fines has been collected since January last year, when the cameras became operational.

# Dayton, Ohio

## *Shocking Crash Video Sent Worldwide Via E-mail*

A video clip of a horrific red light running crash captured by a Dayton, Ohio red light camera in May has taken on a life of its own as traffic safety advocates have distributed it worldwide via e-mail.

The 12-second clip released by the Dayton Police Department and Redflex Traffic Systems, the program contractor, shows a pedestrian being struck by a car after it was hit by a red light runner at the intersection of Edwin C. Moses Boulevard and West Third Street.

Remarkably, no-one was fatally injured in the incident which began when police say a 2003 PT Cruiser driven by a 75-year-old woman traveled at 40 mph through a red light and into the northbound SUV, driven by a 41-year-old woman. The speed limit at the intersection is 35 mph.



### **The video image just after the initial crash**

The SUV was traveling at 35 mph when the PT Cruiser struck it in the driver's side. The SUV flipped two times before landing on its top, careening into the pedestrian and dragging him several feet. The pedestrian was in the crosswalk walking east, but was walking against the red light.

Since it was publicly released, the video clip has has been forwarded to untold numbers of people around the world by e-mail.

## **RED LIGHT RUNNING SURVIVORS NEEDED**

Red light running survivors have suffered the personal consequences of motor vehicle crashes and have decided to work to protect others from the pain they have had to endure — they can become as involved as they would like in efforts to curtail red light running. No previous advocacy experience is needed. If you or anyone you know has survived a red light running crash or lost someone due to a red light runner and might be interested in working to make America's roads safer, please contact:

National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running  
1150 18th St. NW, Suite 1030, Washington, DC 20036  
202-828-9100

E-mail: [info@stopredlightrunning.com](mailto:info@stopredlightrunning.com)

Website: [www.stopredlightrunning.com](http://www.stopredlightrunning.com)

*All discussions and information will be kept confidential.*

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## **Attention Campaign Members!**

Do you have friends, family or colleagues who would be interested in receiving our newsletter? Do you regularly pass the newsletter on to others who are interested? Help us increase awareness of the dangers of red light running by asking anyone who is interested to e-mail us at [cgalm@blakey-agnew.com](mailto:cgalm@blakey-agnew.com) and be added to our mailing list.