

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

I read in the paper, a few weeks ago, about the theft and vandalism of some of the Tsunami warning signs that have been posted in Humboldt County, twenty one of them destroyed I believe. I have noticed the signs in Oregon for a number of years with our coast receiving them much later (typical!!). These signs have been placed in the low lying areas adjacent to the coast for good reason. We, local residents of the coast, are aware of what damage a tidal wave can do. We are also aware of the locations of our low lying coastal areas and where to go to reach higher ground. Even so signs of this nature are helpful reminders. Not all the people from inland who visit, or move, to the coast are aware of a Tsunami hazard. These signs let them know that a hazard exists. We have another problem with signs here in Eureka. Stop signs that is! Eureka is known for its bad traffic accident record. Traffic studies have been made and are being made but nothing seems to improve traffic safety. We have contributing factors that include pedestrians making unsafe attempts to cross streets in heavy traffic, some under the influence. Bicyclists crash because of unsafe maneuvers and being under the influence. Vehicle drivers under the influence are a factor. Yes, the factor that I mention is part of the problem, but not the total problem. Drivers in general are also contributing with their lack of attention as to what is going on around them. Not long ago, my wife and I left the house to run a few errands. After only five blocks of travel, we witnessed three traffic violations. The first was a car that had stopped at a stop sign as I was approaching on the through street. The driver started up as I was entering the intersection and made a left turn in front of me. She waved as I applied the brakes. At the next intersection another car started to run the stop sign and then thought better of it. The next intersection found a driver to my right slowing down to about 15 miles per hour while making a right turn in front of me. I have seen that right turn violation a lot lately. I guess the driver thinks it's OK to run a stop sign while making a right turn as long as it is done at low speed. As I have said before, Eureka is not a village or a metropolis but we have drivers who are from both. They can't seem to learn that driving in the big city and driving through a village are two different experiences and must be modified in a city the size of Eureka. You can't bring driving habits to a different area without some modification on your part.

Fred Nelson for Community Comment