

Emergency Traffic Signal Preemption in Delaware

November 2011



BACKGROUND

- Some signal displays selected by preemption are no longer permitted based on the new Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).
- DeIDOT is mandated by the new MUTCD to prevent these signal displays from occurring.
- This new initiative will improve public safety and first responder safety.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS IN DELAWARE



The Emergency Vehicle operator slides the selector switch to the left to activate preemption. (Sliding to the right extends the green.)



An Opticom™ Emitter mounted on the vehicle activates the system by broadcasting a priority request to the intersection.



The Traffic Controller provides a green light to the approaching emergency vehicle.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Traffic Signal Preemption is an added safety measure, not a replacement for reasonable and prudent emergency vehicle operation.

NEW IMPACT TO EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

- If you're approaching the intersection and want to go straight (through), the signal will still work the same. You will get the green.
- However, if you want to go left, the left-turn arrow will not always be activated.

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MORE ABOUT LEFT TURNS



Before Emergency Preemption is Activated

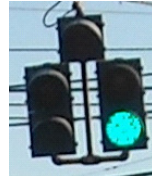


During Preemption

- **Left Turn Only Signals** will operate the same as before.



Before Emergency Preemption is Activated



During Preemption

- **5-Section Signal Heads** will not necessarily provide green arrow.
- Operator should exercise caution and yield to opposing movements if necessary.

SPECIAL CASES

A green signal may not be immediately displayed, depending on several factors such as:



...if a Pedestrian Phase is active.

OR



...if another Emergency Vehicle approaching from a different direction has already activated a preemption call. **"First Come, First Served"**

OR



...if a Railroad Preemption is active.

PREEMPTION RULES OF THUMB...

- You may not receive a green before traveling through the intersection.
- Do not over-rely on the system.
- Proceed as if preemption will not be granted.
- Do not assume you will receive a green arrow when making a left turn.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- Operators must turn off the emitter upon reaching your destination. Failure to do so, at or near a signalized intersection, may cause the traffic signal to "lock" in preemption mode.
- If you believe the preemption equipment at an intersection is not operating properly, contact the TMC at **302-659-4600** or **800-324-8379** to report the malfunction.