

# 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.