

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCY OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE

PURPOSE: This guideline has been created to provide direction for drivers of emergency vehicles in the safe entrance into and egress through signalized intersections equipped with the Sonic Emergency Vehicle Preemption System.

Advantages: Liability control through elimination or reduction of MVA's involving emergency services vehicles, civilian vehicles and pedestrians while travelling through intersections. Reduces response times to the emergency scene.

System Overview: The Sonem system detects any approved electronic emergency siren and upon doing so, issues a request to the intersection traffic controller for a green light in that vehicle's direction of approach. All other directions and pedestrian signals are held on red. Additional optional adjacent lights, called Verification Lights, provide visual acknowledgement that the system has been activated and the siren "captured".

SCOPE: All department personnel assigned with the responsibility of driving vehicles equipped with audible and/or visual warning devices to emergency incidents.

POLICY: All personnel identified within the scope of this guideline shall adhere at all times to the procedures described within this guideline.

PROCEDURE

Action

Information

Sound Siren While Approaching Intersection.
Hold Steady Mode On Approach, We
Recommend "Yelp".

Intersection Microphone Detects
Your Electronic Siren.

NOTE:

Siren should be sounding at all times during emergency response. The microphone will detect the siren as the emergency vehicle approaches the intersection. The distance at which detection and subsequent preemption occurs is dependent upon the ambient noise level at the intersection and the sound pressure level of the siren in use. Generally, the busier the intersection the closer you will be before preemption is activated. This is somewhat self-regulating in that the more congested the traffic; the slower one needs to approach the intersection. It is recommended that you use the "Yelp" mode to obtain the earliest detection while approaching any intersection.

CAUTION:

All pedestrian crosswalk calls made to the traffic controller before the microphone captures the sound of an approaching siren will take priority. This means that if a pedestrian crosswalk request is received by the controller, the crosswalk signal will have to phase through its timed sequence before the controller will activate a green light for the approaching emergency vehicle.

(This is to prevent the crosswalk from being occupied during preemption.)

Also, most controllers are programmed to have minimum timing for the green and yellow light changes, before the red lights can be displayed in the opposing directions.

THEREFORE THE TIME IT TAKES THE SYSTEM TO GIVE THE GREEN LIGHT TO AN APPROACHING EMERGENCY VEHICLE WILL VARY ACCORDING TO THE CONTROLLER TIMING CYCLE, THE AMBIENT NOISE LEVEL AND WHETHER A PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK REQUEST HAS BEEN ACTIVATED. CAUTION MUST BE EXERCISED AT ALL TIMES.

SCENARIOS

Information

SITUATION 1

White “Verification” Light, Which Is Mounted Near Signal Light, Facing You, Starts **FLASHING**.

YOU WILL NOT GET AN IMMEDIATE GREEN LIGHT. The Flashing White Light Only Indicates To Driver That The System Has “Captured” **You** And Has Sent A Message To The Controller To Change The Light **Green In Your Direction And Red In All Opposing Directions.** The **Blue Visual Verification Light will flash in the opposing directions.**

White Visual Verification Light turns to **STEADY “ON”** .

Indicates To Driver That Controller Has Locked On **GREEN LIGHT** In Direction Of Travel And Is Displaying Red Lights In Opposing Directions. **Blue Visual Verification Lights Will Continue to Flash In Opposing Directions.**

Action 1

Proceed Through Intersection With Caution, Displaying And Sounding Emergency Devices.

Green Light Will Allow Traffic Ahead To Clear And To Hold Green Until Timed Out Or You Have Exited The Intersection. The Blue Visual Verification Lights in the Opposing Directions will Alert the Drivers of Emergency Vehicles Approaching From Opposing Directions That The Intersection Is In Or About To Be Go Into Preemption From One Of The Opposing Directions.

SITUATION 2

The **Blue** “Verification” Light, Which is Mounted Near Signal Light, Facing You, Starts **Flashing**.

Indicates To Driver That System Has “Captured” A Siren **Approaching From Another Direction**. You Will Get A **Red** Light Until The Other Emergency Vehicle Has Cleared The Intersection.

Action 2

Do Not Proceed Through Intersection Without Coming To A Complete Stop. Proceed Only When All Other Emergency Vehicles, Approaching From Other Directions, Have Cleared Intersection and it is safe to Proceed.

Under Situation 2, **Another Emergency Vehicle From A Different Direction** Has Been “Captured” First. You Must Wait Your Turn To Proceed When Safe To Do So.

Traffic Signals Will Resume Normal Sequence After Emergency Vehicle Passes Through Intersection. To Reduce The Hold Time To A Minimum, Siren Should Be Sounded Until Clear Of The Intersection.

CAUTION:

The displaying and sounding of emergency alerting devices are provided to alert the public of an approaching emergency vehicle. Such devices emit a request for the right-of-way; they do not guarantee it. All intersections must be approached with caution with due regard for the conditions at the time. Drivers may be confused when signal light change is

shorter than expected. Remember all intersections are unique and therefore all traffic controller computers will not respond in exactly the same manner every time.

Authority

O.G. Number _____

Date _____

Replaces O.G. _____

Dated _____

References _____

Signed _____

Rank/Title _____