

TRAFFIC SIGNAL PREEMPTION BY EMERGENCY FIRE SERVICE VEHICLES POLICY

(January 21, 2004)

- 100.1 PURPOSE:** To ensure a consistent policy for the use of traffic signal preemption devices, including emergency lights at fire station exits and to provide a safer response for emergency fire service vehicles and the public with a reduction in response times, while limiting the disruption to the traveling public.
- 100.2 DISCUSSION:** This traffic signal preemption policy is designed to provide an emergency fire service vehicle, while responding to an incident, the ability to preempt a traffic signal in order to have the “green” light in the direction of the responding vehicle. The signal will preempt to green, to include applicable turning lanes, and to red in all other directions. Not all emergency vehicles will be provided with preemption emitter devices. It is the intent of this policy that, due to the concern regarding unwarranted disruption of traffic, only emergency fire service vehicles be permitted to activate the preemptive devices.
- 100.3 PROCEDURE FOR USE:**
- A.** Traffic preemption devices are to be used by emergency fire service vehicles only when responding to documented emergency incidents. Each emergency incident is assigned an identification number by the 9-1-1 Center and is defined as a dispatch of an emergency vehicle to a valid emergency. Incident identification numbers, with corresponding data, are maintained in 9-1-1 files and will be used for monitoring of preemptive equipment use.
 - B.** In the event of multiple fire service vehicles responding to an emergency incident, preemption activation should be limited to the initial vehicles responding. In the event of call downgrade, all vehicles will cease preemption.
- 100.4 PROHIBITION OF USE:**
- A.** Preemption will **not** be used any time when the emergency fire service vehicle is **not** assigned to an incident.
 - B.** Preemption will not be used for station move-ups unless dispatched as an emergency move-up.
- 100.5 SYSTEM REPAIRS:**
- A.** Any problems with a signal or preemption process will be reported to the 9-1-1 Communications Center and the responsible signal control agency: the Pinellas County Signal Shop at (727) 464-8909, the City of Clearwater Signal Shop at (727) 562-7255/7256, or the City of St. Petersburg Signal Shop at (727) 893-7761.

- B.** If the signal preemption device is reported to be out-of-service, the 9-1-1 Communications Center will electronically memo all fire stations via the Emergency Communications Wide Area Network A.S.A.P.
- C.** The local agency, along with the responsible traffic control agency, will monitor system use and abuse and make recommendations for improvements. In addition, routine reports of usage and other issues will be reported to the Preemption Subcommittee, as defined in Section 100.6.
- D.** Problems with vehicle emitters will be reported, by electronic memo or media, to the local agency's vehicle maintenance service.

100.6 SYSTEM MANAGEMENT:

- A.** A Preemption Subcommittee of the Countywide ITS group will be established with full participating agency representation, including the Florida Department of Transportation.
- B.** The Preemption Subcommittee will evaluate usage, enhancements needed, violations, and other aspects of the preemption system. This Subcommittee will determine the equipment needs to assure consistent installation countywide. The Subcommittee will assist in providing efficient emergency fire service vehicle usage while limiting interruption to the traveling public. The responsibilities of this Subcommittee include:
 - Evaluation of intersection and corridor criteria;
 - Assessment of intersections for equipment installation;
 - Assist in prioritizing intersections and corridors for equipment installation;
 - Assist in determining equipment compatibility for consistent countywide usage;
 - Review activation records of the devices; and
 - Develop additional policies and procedures as needed.
- C.** In order to provide uniform equipment throughout the County, each jurisdiction shall install preemption equipment that is compatible with the computerized signal systems and adjacent jurisdictions that have mutual aid agreements.

100.7 ADOPTION: This Policy Statement must be approved by each jurisdiction prior to the installation of preemption equipment. The inter-operational aspect of this policy is to assure the potential for fire service agencies to utilize the system regardless of jurisdiction.