



FIELD ORDERS

Chapter	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT and ENFORCEMENT
Subject	Directing Traffic

PREEMPTIVE DEVICE USAGE

TRAFFIC SIGNAL PREEMPTION is a system that allows the normal operation of traffic lights to be preempted to assist emergency vehicles. These systems are used to manipulate traffic signals in the path of an emergency vehicle by stopping conflicting traffic so emergency vehicles have the right-of-way in order to reduce response times and enhance traffic safety.

OFFICERS may use a preemption device:

1. While operating a police vehicle equipped with emergency lights and siren to safely clear intersections during Code 2 and Code 3 responses and for special event details that require escorting event personnel.
2. To access gated areas.
3. At the discretion of a police supervisor or above.

SAFE OPERATION of VEHICLE – Officers are still responsible for safely operating a police vehicle with due regard for public safety when using a preemption device.

TRAINING – Officers will successfully complete training before using a preemption device.

MANUALLY OPERATING TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

Manually operating traffic control devices is accomplished by using the stop time switch, the flasher, or manual phasing. Do not turn off any power switch in an attempt to correct a signal problem. Each signal computer has an error mode that identifies the problem for the technician. If the power is turned off, the error mode is erased, thus increasing the amount of troubleshooting time required to repair the malfunction.

PROCEDURE

1. **Using the stop time switch** – When the signal is green for the heavy flow direction, activate the switch to stop the internal time counter to keep the light from phasing. When sufficient traffic has cleared, de-activate the switch to allow the light to return to normal phasing.
2. **Manual phasing** – Activate the switch to immediately phase the light on the operator's command. When finished, return the switch to the normal operation position.
3. **Using flasher** – During a safe break in the flow of traffic,

activate the flasher switch to deactivate normal light phasing and turn on only the red/yellow or red/red flashers. Flip the switch for flash mode ONLY when the signal is on the all red interval (immediately after yellow, all red lasts for one second). If the lights are not switched to flash when all directions are red, the conflict monitor may activate requiring a Signals Technician to respond to take the signal out of flash mode.

HAND SIGNAL TRAFFIC DIRECTION

POLICY – It is important for field personnel to use standardized, appropriate hand and audible signals to direct traffic movement. For officer safety, the signal lights may be put on flash or turned off.

PROCEDURE – Orders of direction to a motorist or pedestrian should never be vocal, except in an emergency. Simple hand signals, which are clearly visible and readily understandable, emphasized by the use of a whistle, will conform to the instructions given below:

1. Stand facing one line of stopped traffic with your side toward moving traffic.
2. Give the “stop” signal while standing sideways to the flow of traffic, using one long blast of the whistle. Extend arms from the sides at a nearly horizontal angle, bending slightly upwards at the elbow. Hold hands vertically, with the palm turned toward the traffic to be stopped.
3. After stopping the moving traffic, turn to face the stopped traffic, look at the lane of traffic to be started, use two short blasts of the whistle and give the signal for that lane to start moving. Use the same procedure for the other direction of traffic to be started.
4. Control at your discretion vehicles that want to turn based on the traffic condition and flow of traffic.
5. If emergency vehicles approach the intersection, stop traffic in all directions until it is safe to start again.
6. Wear department issued traffic vests at all times when directing traffic. Use traffic cones, flares, and flashlights as needed.
7. Overlook minor or non-hazardous violations.

EQUIPMENT NECESSARY for DIRECTING TRAFFIC

1. Any employee directing traffic in the roadway will wear a fluorescent traffic vest at all times and have a whistle for audible direction to vehicles.

2. If working during hours of darkness or inclement weather, use flares, a flashlight, and other lighting devices as may be necessary for your safety and to allow for the safe flow of traffic.
3. You may wear an approved hat.

SPECIAL TRAFFIC CONTROL CONCERNS

SPECIAL EVENTS and CRITICAL INCIDENTS – At large events or critical incidents such as shootings, barricades, SWAT call-outs, assisting other agencies, etc., contact the supervisor in charge to learn of any special traffic control needs such as reverse traffic flow, prohibited traffic, pedestrian flow, or parking plans. Direct traffic following supervisor guidelines and ensuring everyone's safety while creating the least amount of traffic congestion.

FIRE SCENES – Coordinate your activity with the on-scene police department or fire department supervisor. Use road closures to protect fire department vehicles and hoses. Keep observers at a safe distance.

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS – During periods of inclement weather, be alert to any traffic hazards such as running washes, standing water, or debris in the roadway. Take necessary steps such as cones or flares to warn traffic of the hazard and protect the location until it is made safe.

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES
[61.3.2]

Temporary traffic control devices may be used at any location where existing traffic control devices are not functioning or damaged due to a collision, power outage, natural disaster.

- Evaluate repair delays along with other considerations when requesting a temporary traffic control.
- Portable stop signs may be used only as replacements for downed stop signs. Request portable stop signs and other devices from Field Services through Communications.

