

**CITY OF YUMA  
Fire Department**

**Guidelines**

<b>Subject: Opticom Use during Emergency Vehicle Response</b>	<b>Effective Date: 10/7/2017</b>	<b>D.G. # 301.02</b>
<b>Applies To: All Personnel</b>		<b>Page 1 of 1</b>

**PURPOSE:**

The following is intended as a directional tool to insure appropriate use of the Opticom by Apparatus Operators and Company Officers.

**GENERAL:**

The Opticom is installed on all department vehicles capable of an “Emergency” response. Emergency response is defined as responding with all visual, audible and opticom devices in operating mode. The Opticom is an electronic device that transmits an infrared signal to receiving devices installed on directional traffic lights installed at high traffic intersections. The device will capture the signal of an approaching apparatus responding in emergency traffic mode. The opticom receivers will change the directional lights at the intersection, stopping traffic in all directions except for direction of traveling emergency apparatus. The opticom will automatically activate when the Emergency Master switch is activated for visual warning devices on apparatus.

**Use of Opticom:**

1. The Opticom shall be used for emergency response only.

(The Company Officer has access to to a manual Opticom switch that may be used with discretion when responding to a Priority 03 incident, when excessively delayed by traffic, and emergency response is not warranted.)

Abuse of the Opticom system may lead to disciplinary action.

2. Upon approaching an intersection, if the signal remains red, the vehicle must come to a complete stop, and then use extreme caution when entering the intersection. A red light is due to one of the following:

- a. The signal is not equipped with an Opticom receiver
- b. Another responding apparatus has pre-empted or captured the signal
- c. The Opticom has failed.
- d. The signal is operating in “Pedestrian” mode which has priority.
- e. Insufficient time or distance for the Opticom to respond.

3. Always watch for pedestrians when traversing intersections or making right or left turn movements. Some controllers only allow a short green and yellow light for pedestrians which may not be enough time for them to clear the intersection.