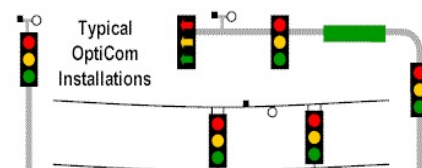


What is OptiCom?

The OptiCom system, designed by 3M, is a traffic control system that provides a green light - and therefore intersection right-of-way - to emergency vehicles. Equipped vehicles have an *emitter*, which broadcasts a visible light or invisible infrared signal to a *receiver*, which is mounted on or near the traffic signal. When the *receiver* detects a recognized signal, the *notifier* (a floodlight mounted on or near the traffic signal) is activated as the traffic signals change to allow priority access as requested. The Village of North Riverside as well as many other municipalities signals that are equipped with OptiCom also utilize the *notifier*. There are however many OptiCom installations nationwide do not utilize the *notifier* element and have no visual signal of an activation.



Below are the two scenarios that drivers may encounter with OptiCom activations in the Village of North Riverside. These scenarios will tell you in detail how to react to these activations. However, if this information is too much to remember, simply continue to obey normal traffic laws in regard to traffic signals during an activation, using extra caution in the knowledge that emergency vehicles are responding nearby.

The floodlight on my traffic signal is flashing, what does it mean?

An emergency vehicle is approaching the intersection, It is either in front of you or behind you, and there may be more than one. If your traffic signal is green, it should remain green. If you passed through the intersection, be aware that one or more emergency vehicles could soon turn onto the road behind you, so be prepared to pull over if necessary.

The floodlight on my traffic signal is on and not flashing, what does it mean?

An emergency vehicle is approaching the intersection from a different direction, either towards you or from the side. If your traffic signal is green, it will change to yellow and then red more quickly than normal. DO NOT try to beat the red. Be alert to an approaching emergency vehicle. Depending on the sensitivity of the receiver as well as If you passed through the intersection, be aware that one or more emergency vehicles could soon turn onto the road behind you, so be prepared to pull over if necessary.

1. An emergency vehicle is approaching the intersection in the same direction that you are. It is either in front of you or behind you, and there may be more than one. If the traffic signal is red, it will change to green shortly. If you have not yet entered the intersection, and if conditions safely allow, pull safely and carefully to the right side of the road and wait until the floodlight turns off. If you are in a large group of traffic that had been waiting at a red light before it turned green with the floodlight, pull as far forward up to or through the intersection as necessary to be able to safely and carefully pull to the right side of the road to make room for emergency vehicles to pass. Do not block the intersection. Remain pulled over until the floodlight turns off, or if you passed through the intersection, until you cannot see or hear any emergency vehicles.