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FLASHING GREEN – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Broomfield, CO—Most experienced drivers are familiar with a flashing yellow light and drivers definitely know how to respond to a flashing red traffic light, but residents of Broomfield may be a bit caught off guard when they approach a traffic intersection and find a flashing green light. So as a driver, what do you do if you approach an intersection and see flashing green?

Motorists need to be aware that a flashing green light at an intersection means that the Opticom device on the traffic signal at that intersection has been activated. If you see flashing green, it means either a fire truck or ambulance is approaching the intersection too, most likely coming from behind you. The vehicle will be responding with lights and sirens to an emergency situation, not just driving down the road. The first step a driver should take is to stay calm and be aware of all the vehicles around you. Second, continue through the intersection until you clear it completely. Then, with caution, follow the Colorado state law of pulling over and coming to a complete stop to allow emergency vehicles the right of way.

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While Opticom devices have been used in Broomfield for a number of years, a new upgrade to the system has added the feature of a flashing green signal. The flashing green signal is important for the first responders riding in the fire trucks and ambulances. This flashing green light lets them know that their signal has been received (it isn't just a coincidental green light at the intersection) and they are free to go through the intersection without fear that the light will turn red as they approach and cause an increased traffic hazard or unnecessary collision.

Remember if you see a flashing green light at an intersection; don't make any sudden stops or lane changes. Pay attention to the vehicles around you and as soon as you can, pull over in an effort to yield to emergency vehicles.

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About North Metro Fire Rescue District

North Metro Fire Rescue is dedicated to your quality care. North Metro Fire Rescue provides fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response and rescue services to our community. Formed in 1946, the district now covers 63 square miles with a population of approximately 103,000 people including the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Northglenn and unincorporated areas of Boulder, Adams and Jefferson Counties.