



Division 10

Logistics and Supply

Chapter 08– Opticom Program

January 2009

POLICY

This General Order shall ensure that all Prince George's County citizens and members of the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department are equally protected by the benefits of the Opticom system. This General Order addresses the policy that the Department Coordinator(s), appointed by the Fire Chief, will be responsible for maintaining an accurate list of current and newly installed intersections. Each new traffic light installation, as supplied by State Highway Administration (SHA) officials, will be added to a list for evaluation of inclusion.

DEFINITIONS

N/A

PROCEDURES

1. Requests for Installation

All requests for intersection inclusion should be sent through the chain-of-command to the Department Coordinator. The Department Coordinator will forward the appropriate information to the Fire Chief for final approval and submission to the State. SHA will not accept individual requests from other sources.

NOTE: Requested Intersections – Only state maintained roads and/or intersections are considered for installation by SHA.

Intersections for which personnel request Opticom installation will be evaluated for

inclusion in the program based on the following criteria:

- Ongoing physical evaluation by the Department coordinator or his/her designee
- Local and/or State criteria and warrants, as well as other traffic information, i.e. changes in traffic patterns or new housing developments

The selection process for inclusion in the annual submission to SHA will be based on the following information:

- Meets Statewide criteria/warrants
- Specific local information
- Department Coordinator's information that is in the best interest of all citizens of Prince George's County, as appropriate

NOTE: The final decision for installation rests with SHA, which coordinates all requests from the entire State.

2. Distribution of Hardware

Receiving Cameras

SHA workers will install receiving cameras at strategic points, in selected intersections. Camera positioning will be dictated by appropriate response routes, as provided by station personnel, and evaluated by the Department Coordinator.

NOTE: Personnel should be aware that SHA also installs non-preempting Opticom cameras to aid in mass transit traffic



movements. While these devices appear the same as public safety preempting ones, they do not receive the same signal and are not affected by our emergency emitters. The devices are able to receive both signals and differentiate between the two, but they are not currently set up in that fashion. There are approximately 20 mass transit cameras installed in the County. We are working to upgrade the Opticom performance at these intersections.

2. Apparatus Emitters

Individual volunteer corporations may purchase apparatus emitters through a “3M” vendor of their choice. SHA may supply a limited number of emitters for each installed intersection, based on State funding levels. Any emitters supplied in this manner will be distributed by the Department Coordinator on an as needed basis. In either case, installation of emitters should be coordinated through the Department Coordinator and Apparatus Maintenance.

3. Training Requests

Requests for training should be directed to the Department Coordinator, and will be conducted on an as needed basis.

REFERENCES

N/A

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

N/A