

City of Newton  
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## Press Release

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### Flashing emergency signals to be removed

City crews in the near future will be removing the flashing emergency signals at Third and Main streets, after a recent storm damaged the signals' electrical components.

Prior to 2003, the emergency lights could be manually switched, along with several other intersections, to flashing red lights when Fire/EMS vehicles were on the way to an emergency call. That practice was discontinued in October 2003, though, because it was actually slowing emergency responses rather than speeding them up. Stopping all four directions of traffic created a bottleneck and created confusion for motorists. Fire/EMS personnel found that traffic cleared more quickly when using the normal traffic light patterns.

The emergency lights at Third and Main don't serve any purpose for normal traffic control, and because of the aging equipment and recent storm damage, they will be removed.

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