



HR/HF

FFCC—Policy/SOG Program

Operations
Policy # 08-12

Safety—Backing of Apparatus
Issued: 12/31/08

Subject: Backing of Apparatus

Purpose: This policy describes the required actions when it is necessary for fire apparatus to back up

Scope: This policy applies to all personnel of the Fire Department.

Definition

Apparatus

Apparatus are defined as ambulances, engines, trucks, or squads.

Policy:

The driver of any Fire Department apparatus shall be directly responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle. When the driver is under the direct supervision of an officer or acting officer, that officer or acting officer shall also assume responsibility for the actions of the driver.

When backing an apparatus, a minimum of one spotter shall be at the rear of the apparatus. The spotter(s) is/are responsible for guiding the Driver and ensuring that any potential hazards are avoided. They shall position themselves to have an unobstructed view and be in visual and voice/radio contact with the apparatus driver. Spotters shall not ride the tailboard while backing apparatus. If the Driver loses visual contact with the spotter(s), the Driver shall stop the apparatus immediately. Vehicle mounted cameras or other devices are not a substitute for a spotter.

In situations where assistance is not available and the apparatus must be immediately moved, the Driver shall first walk completely around the apparatus before backing to ensure no obstructions will interfere with vehicle operation.

Authorized exception to this policy: _____

Department members are exempt from this policy while personnel in the patient compartment of an ambulance are actively performing emergency medical care when arriving at the emergency room and compliance with the policy would jeopardize patient care. The driver shall take extraordinary care while backing the vehicle in these situations.

By the order of: _____
Fire Chief

Date:

References:

- NFPA 1500, Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program, 2007 edition
 - 6.2.7
- NFPA 1451, Standard for a Fire Service Vehicle Operations Safety Program, 2007 edition
 - 8.1.2, 8.1.6

Resources ([click title to access resource](#)):

- [International Association of Fire Chiefs, Guide to Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety](#)
- [National Near Miss Reporting System—Special Report—Vehicle Backing](#)
- NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Reports
 - [F2005-01 California](#)
 - [F98-19 Texas](#)