

POLICY - 3.4.5 - BACKING APPARATUS
SCOPE - ALL PERSONNEL

One of the most hazardous maneuvers routinely expected of apparatus drivers is the process of backing the unit. The primary issue is the fact that the driver cannot adequately see what is behind the vehicle. The hazard becomes more notable with the increase in size of the apparatus.

It is recognized that the ultimate responsibility for the safe operation of apparatus under all circumstances rests with the apparatus driver/operator. However, we must also recognize that during the course of backing apparatus, each of us must share responsibility for the safety of those in the area.

The policy is that there shall be a backing guide whenever there is more than one person on the apparatus. The driver shall make the assignment of who is to assist in the backing process. This individual must be visible in the driver's left-side mirror, and shall stand to the rear of the unit to guide the driver while backing.

Whenever there is not an additional person on the apparatus to meet the need for a backing guide, then one of two things shall occur:

1. The driver shall get out of the vehicle and walk completely around to the rear and off side of the vehicle prior to backing; or
2. The driver or another individual shall assign a member of the department who is not with that unit to perform the duty of backing guide.