



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operational Instruction

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Title: **Backing Apparatus**

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to prevent accidents while backing up apparatus through the use of a standardized procedure. Often while backing up there are blind spots, pedestrians, or other hazards that could cause harm to persons, vehicles, or structures.

SECTION I – VEHICLE BACKING

Backing of department apparatus should be avoided whenever possible. Where backing is unavoidable, a spotter will be used for vehicles in which the rear vision is obscured.

The emergency lights will be used when backing apparatus in locations where other vehicle or pedestrian traffic exists. Whenever necessary, traffic control will be conducted by personnel.

Spotters will always be used when negotiating turns with restrictive side clearance, uncertain height clearance, and parking apparatus in station apparatus bays. The spotter should always look up, look down, and look around for obstacles before directing the driver to start backing. At least one spotter should be positioned off the driver's side rear corner of the vehicle in clear view of the driver using the driver's side rearview mirror. Spotters will remain in view of the driver at all times. Anytime a driver cannot see the spotter, the vehicle should be stopped immediately.

If there are additional personnel available, they should manage to connect the Plymovent hose to the exhaust as the vehicle enters the apparatus bay. If only one spotter is available, they will back up the driver to a point where the Plymovent can be attached safely and then signal the driver to stop completely while the Plymovent is connected. The spotter will then carefully move to a position where they are visible to the driver's side rear view mirror and continue signaling the driver until backing is completed.

SECTION II – SIGNALS

Communications and hand signals agreed upon before proceeding will be used to direct the driver while backing.

Straight Back: One hand above the head with palm toward the body, waving back with hand and arm.

Turn: One arm pointing in the turn direction with fingers extended. Opposite hand waving back.

Stop: Both arms crossed.

SECTION III – SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

When the vehicle is staffed by only the driver, an attempt will be made to use other on scene rescue personnel, law enforcement, or bystanders. If no one is available to assist, the driver needs to make a complete 360-degree walk around the vehicle and inspect for possible hazards. Then the driver will proceed cautiously. The backup cameras are used to look for any hazards behind the vehicle but must not be relied upon exclusively for visibility when backing.

SECTION IV – ACCIDENT WHILE BACKING

1. Report all accidents/incidents to the Shift Officer In Charge (OIC) or Station Captain.
2. Inspect for damage that would need immediate repair and impede safe operation of the vehicle
3. If necessary, request additional resources and remove the vehicle from service.
4. Follow the Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Apparatus Vehicle Collision Reporting procedure (Division 7-1) for post-accident responsibilities.