

**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE - 5.4.6**  
**TOPIC – APPARATUS BACKING PROCEDURES**

**PURPOSE:**

To establish a set of standardized procedures that provide for safely backing Department apparatus.

**GENERAL:**

Since backing accidents account for the vast majority of fire apparatus accidents, it is important that we employ every reasonable procedure to ensure that apparatus is backed safely. This practice will lead to greater personnel safety and preservation of property and apparatus.

**GUIDELINE:**

Prior To Backing Up:

1. When placing apparatus, plan ahead to avoid backing if possible.
2. Driver / Operator must do a 360° walk around before backing the apparatus if a Guide is not available.

During Backing:

1. Guide will be posted. (Whenever advisable, use two guides.)
2. Engineer's side window will be rolled down to improve hearing and vision during backing, headset removed.
3. Guide will be visible from driver's side rear view mirror.
4. Driver must stop immediately if the Guide is not visible in the mirror.
5. Guides must not allow anyone to stand in the path of the vehicle, behind or in front, during the backing procedure.
6. Guides will use the standard hand signals shown on page 3 of this SOG to assist the Driver/Engineer with the backing process. Flashlights may be used as needed to improve visibility. The same hand signals will apply.
7. Where appropriate, the Guide should be supplied with a handheld radio to communicate directly with the operator. Use Tac 11, 12, or 13.
8. Rearview cameras are an assist to backing, but do not negate the need for a Guide.

### Backing On Long, Straight Driveways:

1. Under certain conditions, it may be safer and more advisable, for the Guide to lead the apparatus facing away from the apparatus (Guide must still check over their shoulder frequently to be certain the apparatus is on track and not too close).
2. Walk at the same pace as the apparatus, one (1) to two (2) lengths of the apparatus away.
3. Walk where the driver needs to place the left side of the apparatus.
4. If directional signals are needed, the Guide should face the apparatus at that point.

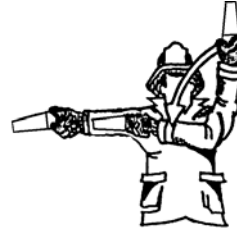
### Guide Positioning:

1. Always guide from the driver's side mirror.
2. Leave adequate room between the apparatus and you.
3. Give plenty of warning; allow for reaction time.
4. Consider your own safety; don't be at risk. Wear proper PPE (reflective vest or coat, helmet, flashlight at night).

A. Back Straight Back



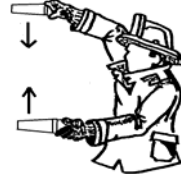
B. Angle Right: Move to direction guide is pointing.



C. Angle Left: Move to direction guide is pointing



D. Diminishing Clearance: Used at end of backing process; when guides hands meet together the vehicle must stop.



E. Stop

