

Pinion Pine Fire

Standard Operating Procedure
2012/13 revision



13 - STANDARD ON BACKING APPARATUS AND SIGNALS

PURPOSE: To ensure safe backing procedures are performed

SCOPE: All personnel

Backing of fire department vehicles should be avoided whenever possible. Where backing is unavoidable, spotters shall be used when vehicles must negotiate forward turns with restrictive side clearance and where height clearances are uncertain.

Under circumstances where the vehicle is manned only by the driver, that vehicle driver shall attempt to utilize any available fire department personnel to act as spotters. Where no personnel are available to assist, the vehicle driver shall get out of the vehicle and make a full 360 degree survey of the area around the apparatus to determine if any obstructions are present.

When engines are backed, all crew members (except the driver) will dismount the apparatus and act as spotters. Spotters should be located at as many corners of the vehicle as possible with at least one spotter at the left rear corner of the apparatus. Where only one spotter is available, the spotter should be located off the left rear corner and will act as the primary spotter.

Spotters will discuss the backing plan with the driver before proceeding. The communication/warning process will be agreed upon prior to backing. Both door windows (driver and front passenger) will be in the down position to allow for maximum communication/hearing between spotters and the driver. Fire radio volumes will be turned down.

The vehicle shall not be backed until all spotters are in position and communicate their approval to start the backing. Spotters will remain visible to the driver. Anytime the driver loses sight of the primary spotter, the vehicle shall be stopped immediately until the spotter is visible and the communication to continue backing is processed.

When vehicles must be backed where other vehicle traffic exists, the vehicle's emergency lights shall be operating.

The vehicle driver is responsible for compliance with this procedure and the safe backing of the apparatus.

SIGNALS

- **STRAIGHT BACK:** One hand above the head with palm toward face, waving back. Other hand at your side. (Left or right hand optional)
- **TURN:** Both arms pointing the same direction with index fingers extended. (Driver will advise spotter which way the turn will be made. The spotter then assists the driver in backing the apparatus. The driver's intentions must be verbally communicated to the spotter.)
- **STOP:** Both arms crossed with hands in fist. Be sure to yell the stop order loud enough that the driver can hear the warning.

NIGHT BACKING

- Signals will be the same. The spotter will ensure that the spotlights on rear of apparatus are turned on before allowing apparatus to be backed. A flashlight may be carried, but at no time will it be directed toward the mirror.