

Waterloo Vol Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

VEHICLE BACKING

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to set policy for the backing of all apparatus and vehicles and to standardize the signals for backing.

Policy:

It shall be the policy of the Waterloo Vol. Fire Department that backing of apparatus shall be avoided whenever possible. Where backing is unavoidable, a spotter shall be utilized. In addition, a spotter shall be used when vehicles must negotiate forward turns with restrictive side clearances and where height clearances are uncertain.

Guidelines:

When any department vehicle is to be backed, one member shall dismount the apparatus and act as a spotter. This member will be located off the left rear corner, visible to the driver in the side mirror.

The spotter shall not ride on the tailboard of the vehicle while it is in motion.

The spotter shall review the backing plan with the driver and agree to the communication process before proceeding. Both door windows shall be open to allow for proper communication and fire radio volumes reduced.

The vehicle shall not begin backing until the spotter is in position and communicates approval to begin. Anytime the driver loses sight of the spotter, the vehicle shall be immediately stopped.

The spotter shall be responsible to check clearances on all sides including overhead.

The company officer shall be responsible for compliance with this procedure.

Signals:

Straight Back: Both hands above the head with the palm away from the driver, waving back.

Turn: Both arms pointing in the same direction with index fingers extended.

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Last Review Date: _____

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Stop: Both arms crossed with the hands in a fist.

All hand signals shall be accompanied by verbal signals.