


<b>SHELBYVILLE FIRE &amp; RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES</b>		
	<b>SECTION: Safety</b> <b>SUBJECT: Backing of Apparatus</b>	S.O.P: 104.10
		PAGE: 1 of 2
	<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b> December 1, 2012  <b>Revision Date:</b>

***Purpose:***

This policy describes the required actions when it is necessary for fire apparatus to back up.

***Scope:***

This policy applies to all members, Career or Volunteer, providing fire, rescue, emergency and non-emergency care to the City of Shelbyville.

***Policy:***


The driver of any Fire Department apparatus shall be directly responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle. When the driver is under the direct supervision of an officer or acting officer, that officer or acting officer shall also assume responsibility for the actions of the driver.

When backing an apparatus, a minimum of one spotter shall be at the rear of the apparatus. The spotter(s) is/are responsible for guiding the Driver and ensuring that any potential hazards are avoided. They shall position themselves to have an unobstructed view and be in visual and voice/radio contact with the apparatus driver. Spotters shall not ride the tailboard while backing apparatus. If the Driver loses visual contact with the spotter(s), the Driver shall stop the apparatus immediately. Vehicle mounted cameras or other devices are not a substitute for a spotter.

***Procedure:***

1. Whenever possible, the driver/operator should avoid backing the apparatus. There are situations however, when it is necessary to back the fire apparatus. These operations should be performed carefully.
2. A spotter should be provided for the backing apparatus whenever possible to provide safety for civilians, fire personnel, equipment and apparatus.
3. If a spotter is not available, the driver/operator should avoid backing situations whenever possible. If backing of the apparatus is still necessary, the driver/operator shall dismount the vehicle and do a walk around to make sure the area is clear. The driver/operator shall utilize the OEM horn of the apparatus with 2 beeps, back cautiously, and periodically check all mirrors.

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### ***Signals:***

**STRAIGHT BACK:** One hand above the head with palm toward face, waving back. Other hand left at your side. (Left or right hand optional)

**TURN:** Both arms pointing the same direction with index fingers extended. (Driver will advise the spotter which way the turn will be made. The spotter then assists the driver in backing apparatus. The driver's intentions must be verbally communicated to the spotter).