



Policy Number: S-009P

Section: Safety

Effective Date: 5-16-2005

SOP MANUAL

Subject: Safety: Backing of Vehicles

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to prevent unnecessary backing accidents when driving any RFD apparatus or ambulance.

Responsibility: All personnel shall be responsible for heeding this policy.

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

The vehicle shall not be backed until a spotter is 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.

Spotters are not permitted to ride tailboard positions while backing fire apparatus.