



## Elgin Fire Department

### OPERATIONS

Backing of Apparatus

**POLICY# 2021.02**

Issued: 12/3/04  
Revised: 9/12/05

**Subject:** Backing of Apparatus

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

**Scope:** This guideline applies to all uniformed personnel of the Elgin Fire Department.

---

### Definition:

Apparatus

Apparatus are defined as ambulances, engines, trucks, or squads.

### Policy:

The driver of any Elgin 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, the officer or his/her designee shall be at the rear of the apparatus. This person shall position themselves to have an unobstructed view and be in visual and voice/radio contact with the apparatus driver. If the Driver loses visual contact with the person backing them, the Driver shall stop the apparatus immediately.

In situations where assistance is not available and the apparatus must be immediately moved, the driver shall first walk completely around the apparatus before backing to ensure no obstructions will interfere with vehicle operation.

### Authorized exception to this policy:

**Department members are exempt from this policy while personnel in the patient compartment of an ambulance are actively performing emergency medical care when arriving at the emergency room and compliance with the policy would jeopardize patient care. The driver shall take extraordinary care while backing the vehicle in these situations.**

By the order of: MICHAEL W. FALESE  
Fire Chief

Revised: 9/12/05