



Clarke County Fire and Rescue

Standard Operating Guideline

John H. Enders VFD, Blue Ridge VFD, Boyce VFD, Clarke County Fire, EMS and Emergency Management

Subject: Vehicle Backing	SOG: 100.07	Page 1 of 2
Category: General – Vehicle Backing		Sub Category:
Approved by: Fire and EMS Director, Boyce VFD Chief, Blue Ridge VFD Chief, John H. Enders VFD Chief		Effective Date: 3/1/2017

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.

Definitions

The following definitions have been adopted for use;

- Spotter – Person responsible for checking for obstacles, clearances and assisting with directions to the driver while vehicle is backing.

Procedure

1. Emergency lights should be used when backing.
2. A two horn blast may used to indicate the beginning of the backing procedure.
3. When a department vehicle including (pumpers, ladder trucks, squads, medic units, brush trucks) 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.
4. The spotter shall not ride on the tailboard of the vehicle while it is in motion.
5. The spotter shall review the backing plan with the driver and agree to the communication process before proceeding. Windows shall be open to allow for proper communication and fire radio volumes reduced.
6. The vehicle shall not begin backing until the spotter is in position and communicates approval to begin. Anytime the driver losses sight of the spotter, the vehicle shall be immediately stopped.
7. The spotter shall be responsible to check clearances on all sides including overhead.

8. The company officer (or person in role of acting officer) shall be responsible for compliance with this procedure.
9. The following signals should be used.
 - a. **Straight Back:** One hand above the head with the palm away from the driver, waving back.
 - b. **Turn:** Both arms pointing in the same direction with index fingers extended.
 - c. **Stop:** Both arms crossed with hands in a fist.
 - d. **All hand signals shall be accompanied by verbal signals.**