

TITLE: 3.2 Backing Of Apparatus And Overhead Door Operation	
 OAK POINT	City of Oak Point Department of Public Safety Fire Department
TITLE: Backing of Apparatus and Overhead Door Operation	SECTION/TOPIC: General Administration
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Purpose

To ensure safety in the ingress and egress of public safety apparatus both on-scene and at DPS Station.

Scope

This guideline applies to all OPDPS members.

I. Guideline The following shall apply to all apparatus

Vehicle Backing and Signals

1. Backing of DPS Service vehicles should be avoided whenever possible. Where backing is unavoidable spotters shall be used. Spotters shall also be used when vehicles must negotiate forward turns when restrictive side clearance or height clearances are uncertain.

2. Under circumstances where the vehicle is staffed by only the driver, that vehicle driver shall attempt to utilize any available personnel to act as spotters. Where no personnel are available to assist, the vehicle driver shall get out of the vehicle and make a complete 360 degree survey of the area around the vehicle to determine if any obstructions are present.

3. When apparatus are backed, all vehicle members (except for the driver) will dismount the apparatus and act as spotters, including the Officer. Spotters should be located at as many corners as possible with at least one spotter at the left rear corner of the apparatus. Where only a single spotter is available, the spotter should be located off the left rear corner of the vehicle. Where more than one spotter is available, the spotter at the left rear corner of the vehicle is the primary spotter.
4. Spotters are not permitted to ride tailboard positions while backing fire apparatus.
5. Spotters will discuss the backing plan with the driver before proceeding. The communication/warning process will be agreed upon prior to backing. Both door and windows (driver and front passenger) will be in the down position to allow for maximum communications (hearing) between spotters and the driver. Fire radio volumes will be turned down.
6. The vehicle shall not be backed until all spotters are in position and communicate their approval to start the backing. Spotters will remain visible to the driver. Any time 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.
7. When vehicles must be backed where other vehicle traffic exists, the vehicle's emergency lights (if equipped with such lights) shall be operating.
8. The Vehicle Officer is responsible for compliance with this procedure and the safe backing of the apparatus.

II. Night Backing

Signals will be the same. The spotter will assure that the spotlights on rear of apparatus are turned on before allowing apparatus to be backed. A flashlight may be carried, but at no time will it be directed toward the mirror.

- A. Signals

1. Straight Back: One hand over the head with palm toward face, waving back. Other hand at your side (Left or right hand optional)
2. 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.)
3. Stop: Both arms crossed with hands in fist. Be sure to yell the stop order loud enough that the driver can hear the warning.

III. Door Operation

1. Overhead doors are to be fully open or fully closed. Doors left partially open for any reason will be in violation of this guideline.
2. In the event of a tornado WARNING, all overhead doors on all public safety station are to be opened, and left open until threatening subsides.
3. The apparatus must not move in or out of the bay area unless the overhead door is in the fully open position.

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