



MASON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #4

TITLE: VEHICLE BACKING

CHAPTER: 4000

NUMBER: 4015

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Signature on file

Bob Burbridge, Chief

Backing:

Before backing a fire district vehicle, the driver **shall** ensure that the intended path is clear of hazards or obstructions. One or more spotters are to be employed as guides in all situations where the driver does not have a clear vision of the path of travel. Two spotters should be assigned when backing large or heavy apparatus—one covering each side of the vehicle. When available, a third spotter can be used to monitor traffic or, watch the front of the vehicle for overhead obstructions. A spotter is responsible for guiding the driver and ensuring that any potential hazards are avoided. Standard signals shall be used to communicate with the driver during the backing maneuver; hand signals or voice signals transmitted over a portable radio (when appropriate) can be employed for this purpose. The spotter will direct the driver to stop at any time the backing maneuver cannot be completed safely.

The spotter(s) is/are to be on the ground, to the rear of the vehicle, and **shall** remain visible to the driver at all times. If the driver loses sight of the spotter(s) at any time, the driver **shall** immediately stop the vehicle. In no case are cameras or safety devices a substitute for a spotter. (NFPA 1500 requires at least one spotter to have contact with the driver.) If it is essential to back a vehicle with limited rear ward visibility and no spotter is available, the driver **shall** stop, dismount, and visually perform a 360-degree check around the vehicle before backing, with emphasis on the area behind and to both sides. After checking the area, the driver **shall** back the vehicle at slow speed and with extreme caution, prepared to stop immediately if necessary.