

MAHANOEY CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guidelines
#4811 – Apparatus Backing

Effective: 11/01/06

Revised: 11/01/07

1. Effective 01 November 2004 and upon unanimous decision at the 20 October 2004 meeting of the MCFD Board of Fire Trustees, the following policy for apparatus backing has been established.
2. Backing of Fire Department vehicles should be avoided whenever possible.
3. Where backing is unavoidable, spotters shall be used regardless of assisting electronic devices (i.e. camera). In addition, spotters shall be used when vehicles must negotiate forward turns with restrictive side clearances and where height clearances are uncertain.
4. Junior Firefighters shall not be permitted to act as spotters at any time.
5. During non-emergency use and when alone, the driver shall use best judgment and should do a 360 degree survey of the area around the vehicle to see if obstructions are present.
6. When apparatus must be backed where other vehicle traffic exists, the fire department's emergency lights shall be activated.
7. Where fire department vehicles are backed, all crew members shall remain seated except the spotters. Spotters should be located at as many corners of the vehicle as necessary with at least one spotter at the vehicle's left rear corner. Where only one spotter is available, the spotter should be located at the vehicle's left rear corner and will act as the primary spotter.
8. Spotters are not permitted to ride the tailboard while backing the apparatus.
9. Spotters and the driver will discuss the backing plan before proceeding. The communications/warning process, including hand signals, will be agreed upon prior to backing. Both door windows (driver and front passenger) will be in the down position, as needed, to allow for maximum communication/hearing between spotters and driver. Fire radios should be turned down.
10. The vehicle shall not be backed until all spotters are in position and communicate their approval to start backing. The primary spotter (left rear corner of the vehicle) shall remain visible to the apparatus driver at all times. If at any time the driver loses sight of the primary spotter, the vehicle shall be stopped until the spotter is visible.

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11. The Company Chief and Officers are responsible for compliance with this procedure and the safe backing of the apparatus.
12. It shall be the responsibility of the Assistant Fire Chief to insure that all members are trained to this SOG.
13. Any firefighter not adhering to this SOG shall be subject to Borough and Department disciplinary action.

Fire Chief

Author