



# Buxton Fire-Rescue

## Standard Operating Guideline

**Subject:** High Risk - Vehicle Operation (2)

**Section:** High Frequency - Backing (1)

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*Nate R. Lee*

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### PURPOSE:

To standardize a method, for the safe backing of apparatus, to reduce or eliminate injuries to personnel or the public, and to reduce the potential for damage to apparatus, equipment or stations.

### PROCEDURE:

1. The operator of an apparatus shall attempt to position the apparatus to minimize the need to back up whenever possible.
2. Whenever an apparatus needs to be backed up, into a station or at an incident scene or training session, the driver shall deploy one spotter to guide and monitor the safe movement of the apparatus when personnel are available.
  - a. In situations where there are no other members riding on the apparatus, a member of the department that is in the station shall perform the spotters duty.
  - b. If there are no personnel riding on the apparatus and no one is available in the station the operator shall exercise extreme caution while backing without a spotter.
    - If there is no spotter the operator must complete a walk around of the apparatus and the area that he/she will be backing the apparatus into prior to backing.
    - If at any time the driver feels that the situation is not safe, he/she should stop the vehicle until the situation is corrected. This may mean getting out and physically walking around the vehicle and down the road to where the vehicle is headed.
3. If a driver loses sight of the spotter he/she shall immediately stop the apparatus until they are back in visual contact.
4. The apparatus should be backed at a slower than normal rate so the spotter can be safely monitored for signals.
5. At night the spotter should use a flashlight to help the driver see them. DO NOT point the flashlight directly in the driver's mirror as this may cause temporary blindness.
6. The spotter should use exaggerated hand signals to direct the driver so the spotters directions are clear when viewed through the driver's mirror.
7. The spotter should be positioned so that they can be easily seen, but far enough away from the apparatus to avoid injury during the backing process.
8. While the apparatus is backing the emergency lights on the vehicle shall be operating.
9. The spotters responsibility include:
  1. Constantly look and listen for other vehicles and people that may enter the path of the apparatus that is backing up.
  2. Stop any oncoming hazard or to signal the driver to stop backing the apparatus whenever there is a potential for an injury or incident.
  3. Be aware of hazards at ground level and also for overhead obstructions such as tree branches, wires, signs, canopies, etc.

### PPE REQUIRED:

Traffic Safety vest must be worn by spotter (reference SOG HR.LF.1.1 Traffic Safety Vests)