

Rules and Regulations

Administrative Regulations
Policy 114.0
Vehicle Backing



Purpose:

Many accidents involving Fire Department apparatus happen while the apparatus is backing. These types of incidents create many problems for the Fire Department from the apparatus being out of service, cost of repairs, to increased insurance premiums for fire apparatus. Backing accidents are preventable. This policy is established to provide for the safe backing of fire apparatus, Class II and Class III. It is hoped that this policy will prevent property damage accidents to Bryan Fire Department equipment and private property as well as prevent personal injuries to individuals.

Policy:

Non-Emergency:

Prior to fire apparatus backing, all personnel riding on the vehicle, with the exception of the driver shall exit the vehicle.

1. In the case of the Engines, two Firefighters shall stage themselves at each rear corner of the apparatus keeping themselves in line with the apparatus mirror. The officer of the apparatus will stage at the driver's door.
2. In regards to the Tower and Rescue, personnel will stage themselves at each corner of the apparatus with the firefighters at the rear of the apparatus in alignment with the apparatus mirrors. The officer will stage at the driver's door and the additional firefighter shall stage at the passenger side front corner of the apparatus.
3. With the Tanker and Haz Mat 1, the officer of the apparatus shall stage at the driver's side rear corner in alignment with the driver's mirror.

Personnel at the rear of the apparatus shall have visual contact with each other at all times. The firefighter staging at the driver's side rear of the truck shall also be in visual contact with the officer at all times. The officer shall assist and direct the driver while backing the apparatus. The firefighters at the rear of the apparatus shall give direction to the officer as needed to assist in the maneuvering of the apparatus. The driver of any vehicle shall not back the apparatus unless the spotters are in place. If the driver loses sight of the spotters to the rear of the vehicle, the driver shall stop and not move the vehicle until the spotters return to the drivers view. Additionally, if any of the spotters lose sight of each other, the spotters will have the apparatus stop until the missing spotter comes into view. Portable radios may be used for clearer communications between spotters and driver. Drivers shall remove their headset and roll the window down before backing the vehicle. The term "Freeze" shall be used to stop the backing process.

While backing apparatus at night all personnel shall wear turnout coats or wear some other type of reflective garment as a minimum as this gives the driver and other traffic the

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ability to see personnel at night because of the reflective striping.

Additionally, spot or flood lights to the rear of the vehicle shall be lit so as to illuminate the rear of the truck for greater visibility. Spotters shall also activate their flashlights for additional visibility for themselves and others.

All apparatus shall ensure that traffic has been stopped prior to the apparatus beginning to back up. The driver shall activate the vehicles emergency lights prior to backing.

In the event that the driver is the only one in the vehicle because of returning from a parade, etc., the apparatus must be stopped and completely circled by the operator to ensure that there are no obstructions or other dangers before backing.