

HIGH RISK/HIGH FREQUENCY

HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

GUIDELINE NO: 200.05

SUBJECT: BACKING OF APPARATUS

APPROVAL: Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

Effective Date: 5-16-16

Revised Date: n/a

PURPOSE

This guideline describes the required actions when it is necessary for fire apparatus to back up

RESPONSIBILITY

1. All Chief and Company Officers have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All firefighters have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

DEFINITION

1. **Apparatus** - Apparatus are defined as Engines, Aerial Ladder Platforms, Brush Trucks, Heavy Rescue, Tenders and Support Vehicles

GUIDELINE

- A. The driver of any Fire Department apparatus shall be directly responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle.
- B. The window on the driver's door shall be opened for enhanced communications.
- C. When backing an apparatus, a minimum of one spotter shall be at the rear of the apparatus.
- D. The spotter(s) is/are responsible for guiding the Driver and ensuring that any potential hazards are avoided.
- E. They shall position themselves to have an unobstructed view and be in visual and voice/radio contact with the apparatus driver.
- F. Spotters shall not ride the tailboard while backing apparatus.
- G. If the Driver loses visual contact with the spotter(s), the Driver shall stop the apparatus immediately.
- H. Besides the spotter no other personnel shall be located directly behind a backing apparatus.
- I. Vehicle mounted cameras or other devices are not a substitute for a spotter.
- J. In situations where assistance is not available and the apparatus must be immediately moved, the Driver shall first walk completely around the apparatus before backing to ensure no obstructions will interfere with vehicle operation.
- K. Emergency lights shall be activated while backing into station and Opticom shall be turned off.

References – Policy, Risk and frequency classification information - <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/sopsog.php>, NFPA 1500 6.2.7 and NFPA 1451 8.1.2, 8.1.6