



*Akron Fire Company, Inc.*  
**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**  
 Approved by: Peter West Fire Chief

SOG #:	<b>700.5</b>
Approved:	4/27/15
Revised:	<b>N/A</b>
Revision #:	<b>Initial</b>

**700.5**  
**Backing of Apparatus**

**PURPOSE:** To ensure the safe backing of all apparatus.

**SCOPE:** This policy covers all personnel of the fire department

**ENFORCEMENT:** Failure to comply will result in progressive discipline in accordance to the constitution and by- laws of the Akron Fire Company Inc.

**Policy:**

**Backing:** Before backing a fire department vehicle, the driver shall ensure that the intended path is clear of hazards or obstructions.

One or more spotters shall be employed as guides in all situations.

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 can be employed for this purpose. The spotter shall direct the driver to stop at any time the backing maneuver cannot be completed safely.

The spotter(s) shall don the Department issued visible safety vest whenever operating in or near a roadway, shall 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 rearward 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

Reviewed:
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**REFERENCES:**

- NFPA 1500, Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program, 2007 edition - 6.2.7
- NFPA 1451, Standard for a Fire Service Vehicle Operations Safety Program, 2007 edition - 8.1.2, 8.1.6

**RESOURCES:**

- International Association of Fire Chiefs, Guide to Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety:  
[www.iafc.org/vehicleSafety](http://www.iafc.org/vehicleSafety)

Reviewed:
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