

City of Belleville Fire Department

Number: 8001

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Belleville Fire Department that standard procedures be followed when backing up Fire Apparatus.

Date S.O.G. Comes Into Effect: July 6, 1998

Date S.O.G. Revised: May 24, 2017

Date Committee Approved S.O.G. : May 6, 1998

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GUIDELINE

1:00 Purpose:

1:01 That standard procedures be followed when backing Fire Apparatus.

2:00 Procedures:

2:01 It is recommended that the vehicle come to a full stop in front of the Station with the emergency lights activated. If safe to do so, fire fighters should dismount (on the curb side) and assist the driver by guiding him while backing up.

2:02 Fire Fighters should be positioned on one side of the vehicle but not on the roadway, to assist the driver in determining when it is safe to back onto the roadway. Flashlights can be used when visibility is poor. The duty of fire fighters assisting in backing up is to control pedestrian traffic using agreed upon hand signals to assist the driver when backing the vehicle into the Station.

2:03 Where there is no extra crew members in a vehicle, the driver shall take all necessary precautions before backing any vehicle into the Station.

THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.

- 2:04 Priority must be given to the safety of citizens and fire fighters in any backing up operation. Whenever possible, use the vehicle to encroach on the roadway, not personnel.
- 2:05 Avoid backing up whenever possible. Plan ahead when parking, so backing up is unnecessary.
- 2:06 Where fire fighters are unavailable, drivers should dismount and walk completely around the vehicle before backing to ensure there is no unseen obstacles behind the apparatus (except when backing into the Stations from the roadway).

NOTE: The above guidelines are for backing vehicles into Stations and for backing up vehicles during the performance of fire fighting duties at emergency scenes. This guideline does not apply to traffic control that may be necessary for the protection of fire fighters working at an emergency scene. It is recognized that under certain circumstances fire fighters are required to request vehicles to stop to either get vehicles back into a Station or move a vehicle at an emergency scene. However, fire fighters must not attempt to stop traffic unless it is absolutely essential to get a vehicle back into service, or traffic conditions warrant this action. All personnel shall take all the necessary precautions required.

2:07 **Hand Signals:**

When using hand signals, it is the responsibility of both the apparatus operator and the spotter to know what signals will be used. There are many hand signals that can be used and it is not the intent of this SOG to limit the signals that may be used. It is critical that the operator and the spotter are in complete understanding of the hand signals being used. The standards hand signals are:

Straight Back: Hand(s) at face level with palm toward the face of the spotter, motioning towards the spotter’s body.

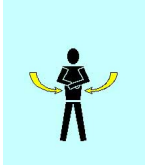


Back Left/Right: Point in the direction that the operator is to back the vehicle and signal to back-up with the free hand



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Stop: There are three primary hand signals for stop; the clenched fist(s), an outstretched hand(s) with palms facing away from the spotter and two crossed arms as shown or in the up position with the back of the hands facing the spotter.



Night Movement: Signals will be the same. The spotter will assure that the lights on the apparatus are turned on before allowing the apparatus to be backed. A flashlight may be carried but at no time will it be directed towards the mirrors.

3:00 **Scope:**

- 3:01 It shall be the responsibility of the Captain/ Officer in charge of each shift to ensure that this guideline is explained and followed.
- 3:02 It shall be the responsibility of **all employees** to understand and adhere to this guideline.

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