

# SUBLIMITY FIRE DISTRICT

## Operational Guide

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Backing Apparatus	O.G. NUMBER:
<b>PURPOSE:</b> To describe the considerations for placing apparatus at emergency incidents.	Original Date: 8/19/99
	Revision Date:

### Backing and standard Signals for backing Fire Apparatus

Backing of Fire Department vehicles should be avoided whenever possible. Where backing is unavoidable spotters shall be used when vehicles must negotiate forward turns with restrictive side clearances and where height clearances are uncertain.

Under circumstances where the vehicle is manned by only the driver, that vehicle driver shall attempt to utilize any available fire department personnel to act as spotters. Where no personnel are available to assist, the vehicle driver shall get out of the vehicle and make a complete 360 degree survey of the area around his vehicle to determine if any obstructions are present.

Where engines or ladder trucks are backed, all crew members (except the driver) will dismount the apparatus and act as spotters. Spotters should be located at as many corners of the vehicle as possible with at least one spotter at the left rear corner of the apparatus. Where only a single spotter is available, the spotter should be located off the left rear corner and will act as the primary spotter.

Spotters will discuss the backing plan with the driver before proceeding. The communication/warning process will be agreed upon prior to backing. Both door windows (driver and front passenger) will be in the down position to allow for maximum communication/hearing between spotters and the driver. Fire radio volumes will be turned down.

The vehicle shall not be backed until all spotters are in position and communicate their approval to start the backing. Spotters will remain visible to the driver. Anytime the driver loses sight of the primary spotter, the vehicle shall be stopped immediately until the spotter is visible, and the communication to continue backing is processed.

When vehicles must be backed where other vehicle traffic exists, the vehicle's emergency lights shall be operating.

The vehicle driver is responsible for compliance with this procedure and the safe backing of the apparatus.

### SIGNALS

**STRAIGHT BACK.** Hold hands directly in front, chest high, fingers on hands pointed directed towards one another, and motion in a circular motion "come on" gesture. At night hold a flashlight in one hand and direct the beam toward the other hand. (Left or right hand optional)

TURN: Point in the direction of the turn with the hand on that side and motion in a circular “come on” gesture with the other at chest level. At night, direct a flashlight beam at the hand pointing in the of the turn.

STOP: Hold both hands directly in front, chest high, exposing the palms to the driver. At night, hold hands in the same manner, the addition of a flashlight in one hand, shining at the driver. This will indicate an immediate stop.