



# Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

Developed by: Mike Moyer  
Mike Moyer, Battalion Chief

Approved by: Steve R. Mooney  
Teton Emergency Responders Association

Approved by: Carlos Rodriguez  
Carlos Rodriguez, Chief

Approved by: George Carlson  
Emergency Services Council

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to prevent accidents while backing up apparatus through the use of a standardized backing procedure. Often while backing up there are blind spots, pedestrians, or other hazards that could cause harm to persons, vehicles or structures.

## SECTION I – VEHICLE BACKING

Backing of department apparatus should be avoided whenever possible. Where backing is unavoidable, a spotter will be used for vehicles in which the rear window vision is obscured. Spotters will also be used when negotiating turns with restrictive side clearance and when there is an uncertain height clearance.

The spotter will be positioned off the driver's side rear corner of the vehicle in view of the driver using the rear view mirror located on the outside drivers' side of the apparatus. Communications and hand motions agreed upon before proceeding will be used to direct the driver into position. Spotters will remain in view of the driver. Anytime the driver is unable to see the spotter the vehicle shall be stopped immediately.

When backing in locations where other vehicle traffic exists, the emergency lights will be used. When ever necessary, traffic control will be conducted by personnel.

## SECTION II - SIGNALS

Straight back: One hand above the head with palm toward body, waving back with hand and arm.

Turn: One arm pointing in the turn direction with fingers extended. Opposite hand waving back.

Stop: Both arms crossed.

### **SECTION III – SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

When the vehicle is staffed by only the driver, an attempt will be made to use on-scene rescue personnel, law enforcement or bystanders. If no one is available to assist, the driver needs to make a complete 360-degree walk around the vehicle and inspect for possible hazards. Then the driver will proceed cautiously.

### **SECTION IV – ACCIDENT WHILE BACKING**

1. Report the Accident/Incident to the *EMS Shift Captain or Station Captain*.
2. Inspect for damage that would need immediate repair and impede safe operation of the vehicle.
3. If necessary, request additional resources and remove vehicle from service.
4. Complete Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Incident Report and turn into the *EMS Shift Captain or Station Captain*.