

	APPARATUS BACKING GUIDELINE	2017revA
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Procedure:

A. General Rules:

1. When placing an apparatus, plan ahead to avoid backing if feasible.
2. Use at least one spotter/backer whenever possible.
3. If no spotter is available, the driver shall perform a 360° walk-around and visual clearance check prior to backing.
4. When backing in areas that could potentially impact traffic, use emergency warning lights while backing.
5. Driver and spotter must have an agreed upon set of hand signals which are defined below.
6. When backing at night, a flashlight may be used to improve visibility. The light should be used to guide a path on the ground for the apparatus. Avoid shining the light into the mirror which can blind the driver.
7. When cordless headsets are available, they should be worn by the spotter to maintain voice contact with the driver.
8. Rearview cameras are an assist to backing, but do not replace the need for a spotter.

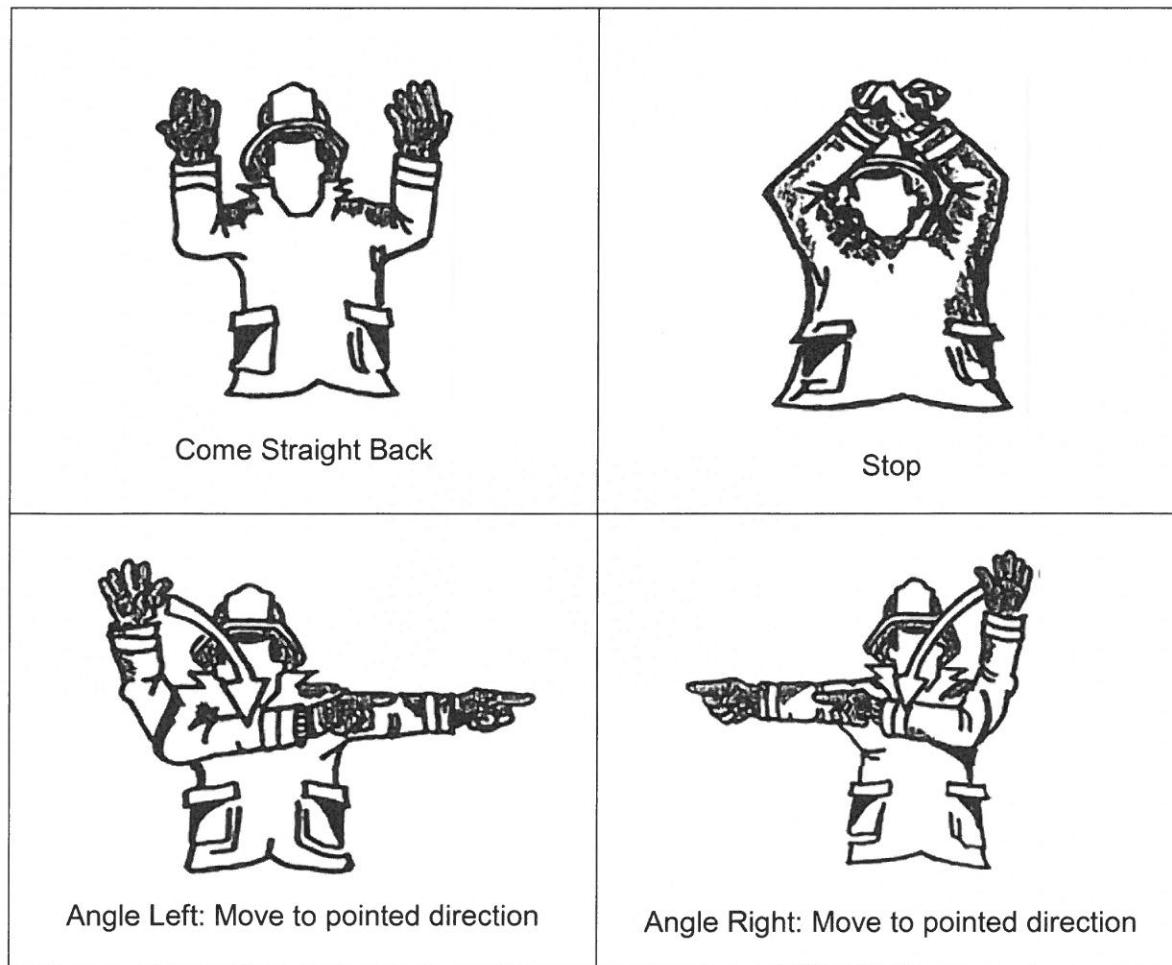
B. Driver Responsibilities

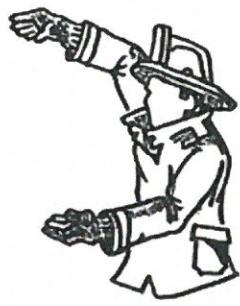
1. Bring the apparatus to a complete stop prior to backing.
2. If no headset is available for the spotter, roll down the window and remove your headset to improve hearing if the spotter shouts a warning.
3. Make visual contact with the spotter in the driver's side mirror, and wait for the spotter's hand signal to begin backing.
4. Check both mirrors and "compartment open" warning light prior to moving to help verify all doors and compartments are closed.
5. Driver and spotter must continue visual contact during backing. Driver should stop immediately if the spotter is not visible in the mirror.

C. Spotter Responsibilities

1. Conduct a visual clearance check of the backing area, the sides of the apparatus, and overhead clearance.
2. Communicate hidden hazards to the driver.
3. Position yourself eight to ten feet behind the apparatus on the driver's side, and walk where the driver should place the left side of the apparatus (lead the engine).
4. Under certain conditions, it may be safer for the spotter to lead the apparatus facing away from the apparatus. Spotter should still check over his shoulder to verify the apparatus is on track.

The following hand signals shall be LFRA's official hand signals for apparatus backing.





Used at end of backing process; when spotter's hands meet together the vehicle should stop.

Revision History:

New guideline, no current revision history on record.

References:

IFSTA Pumping and Aerial Apparatus driver Handbook. Third Addition.
Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles Handbook