

New Durham Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

SOG 404 Backing-Up Apparatus

PURPOSE: To insure the safe backing-up of apparatus

SCOPE: All Driver/Operators of apparatus

SPECIFICS:

- The driver/operator is ultimately responsible for the safe backing of the vehicle.
- Backing of Fire Department vehicles should be avoided whenever possible. Where backing is unavoidable spotters shall be used (if available).
- Spotters shall be used (if available) 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 members to act as spotters. Where no members are available to assist, the vehicle driver shall get out of the vehicle and make a complete 360 degree survey of the area around the vehicle to determine if any obstructions are present.
- When vehicles are backed, crew members (except the driver/operator) will dismount the apparatus and act as spotters, including the Company Officer. Spotters should be located at the front right and a primary 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 are not permitted to ride tailboard positions while backing fire apparatus.

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