

Alton Fire & Rescue Department Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

SOG 1.3.4 Backing-Up Apparatus (reference SOP 1.3.4)

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.

DATE: Approved: 2/27/06 REVISED 1/27/2009

Alton Fire & Rescue Department

Standard Operating PROCEDURES (SOP)

SOP 1.3.4 Backing – Up Apparatus

PURPOSE: To insure the safe backing up of apparatus

SCOPE: All Driver/Operators of apparatus

SPECIFICS:

- **Driver/operator's role**
 - **The vehicle shall not be backed until all spotters are in position and communicate clearance to start the backing to the driver/operator.** Spotters will remain visible to the driver/operator. Anytime the driver/operator loses sight of the primary spotter, the vehicle shall be stopped immediately until the spotter is visible, and the communication to continue backing is indicated.
 - **The vehicle shall not be backed until all spotters are in position and communicate clearance to the driver/operator to start backing.** Spotters will remain visible to the driver/operator. Anytime the driver/operator loses sight of the primary spotter, the vehicle shall be stopped immediately until the spotter is visible, and communication to continue backing is indicated.
 - When vehicles must be backed where other vehicles traffic exists, the vehicle's emergency lights (if equipped with such lights) shall be operating and safety vests shall be worn by all spotters.

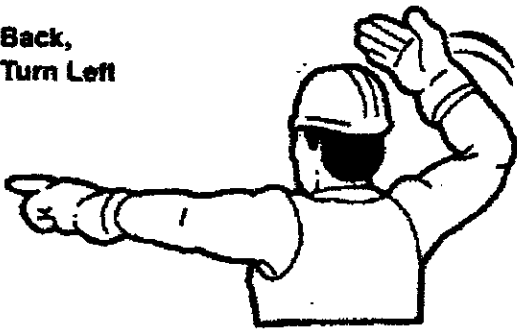
- **Spotter's Role and Responsibilities:**
 - The driver/operator will discuss the backing plan with the engineer/driver before proceeding.

- The communication/warning process will be agreed upon prior to backing.
 - Windows will be in the down position to allow for maximum communication/hearing between spotters and the driver/operator.
 - The spotters will utilize standardized backing-up hand signals in addition to any other communication method used.
-
- Apparatus Backing-Up Signals in appended visual (Standard Hand Signals).

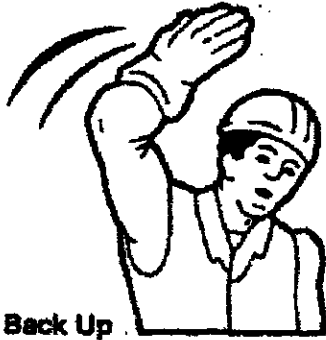
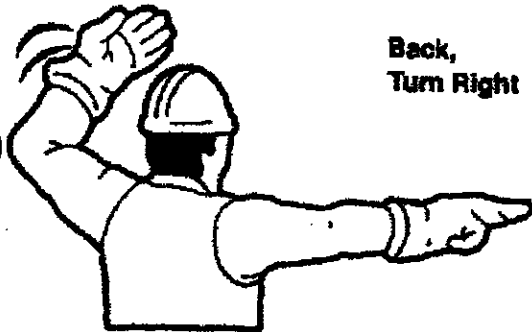
DATE: Approved: 2/27/06 REVISED 1/27/2009

STANDARD HAND SIGNALS

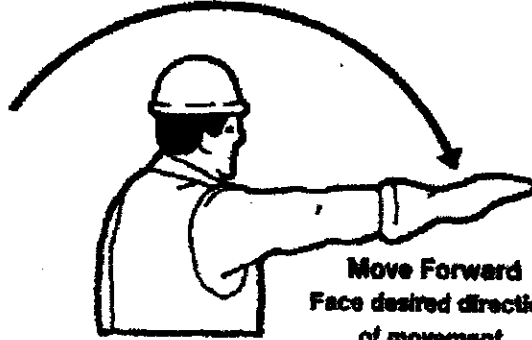
Back,
Turn Left



Back,
Turn Right



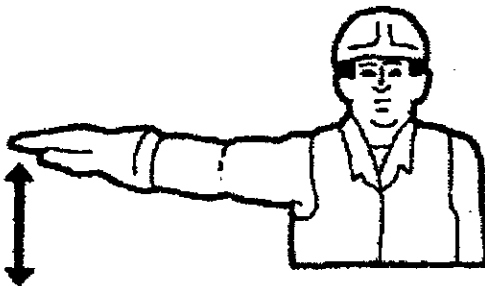
Back Up



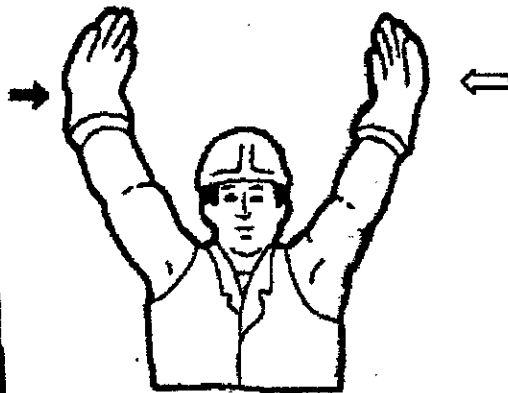
Move Forward
Face desired direction
of movement.



Stop



Slow Down
Move Arm up and Down



Distance
Left to Back