

**WESTHAMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD POLICY**

Backing Up of Emergency Apparatus

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Backing up of Fire Department vehicles should be avoided whenever possible. Where backing up 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.

The emergency lights shall be operating any time an emergency vehicle is backing up.

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