



Safety Bulletin

SB #01-05

May 2014

Preventing Apparatus Backing Incidents

Apparatus backing incidents in the fire service adds thousands of dollars in unwanted insurance claims, creating more money spent and higher insurance premiums for these **preventable** incidents. But sadly, apparatus backing incidents have caused firefighter injuries and death. According to the NFPA and NIOSH, there were over 84,000 firefighter injuries, in which over 7 percent were contributed to preventable vehicle crashes, including backing accidents.

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), NFPA and NIOSH, backing incidents can be prevented. Meaning that, if rear vehicle spotter(s) were there to simply STOP the backing vehicle before striking a person or object, were there to assure a clear path of travel, were there to warn and clear personnel of the backing vehicle, were there to stop personnel from traveling in the direct path of the backing vehicle, were there to warn the vehicle operator of approaching objects (personnel, bystanders, buildings, other vehicles, loading docks and debris) and were there to correctly give the vehicle operator signals or instructions to safely back the apparatus; then backing incidents would be extremely reduced!

Below are diagrams of hand signals utilized by the trucking industry that your department can implement.



Spotter signaling to back straight back



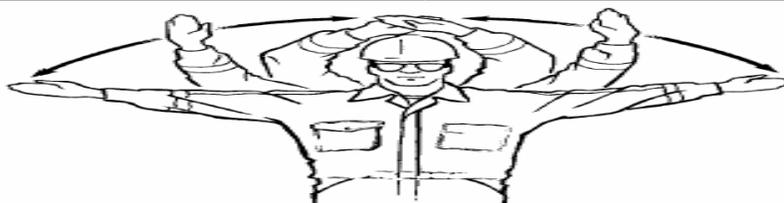
Spotter signaling to back left or right



Spotter signaling the distance to stop point



Spotter signaling vehicle to stop all movement and wait for instructions



Spotter signaling STOP



Washington County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

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For more information on easy to implement Emergency Vehicle Response Driving Policies, including Back Policies for your fire department, please double click on the below document.

Guide to IAFC Model Policies and Procedures For Emergency Vehicle Safety



For additional information, please contact your department Safety Committee representative or a County Incident Safety Officer. As always, Be Safe!!!

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