

**Purpose:** This policy establishes the guidelines for any time an emergency vehicle is backing, at least one member of the crew shall act as a spotter and assist the driver in backing the vehicle safely.

**Administration:** The Deputy Chief of Health and Safety will have primary responsibility for administration of this policy within the scope of his/her job description.

**Policy and Procedures:**

- Backing of Cumru Township Fire Department vehicles should be avoided whenever possible. Where backing is unavoidable, spotters shall be used.
  1. At least one spotter should be positioned at the left rear corner of the apparatus during backing, and that spotter shall be the lead spotter. Only the lead spotter shall communicate with the apparatus operator during backing.
  2. Spotters are not permitted to ride the apparatus while backing.
  3. While backing, the driver door window will be in the down position to allow for maximum communication/hearing between the lead spotter and the driver. Fire radio volumes shall be turned down as needed to ensure clear communication.
  4. Spotters shall also be used when vehicles must negotiate forward turns with restricted side clearances and where height or other clearances are uncertain, and their position(s) relative to the apparatus shall be adjusted as the situation dictates.
- The vehicle shall not be backed until all spotters are in position and communicate their position and approval to start the backing to the lead spotter. The lead spotter shall then communicate approval to start backing to the operator.
  1. All spotters will remain visible to the operator whenever possible.
  2. Should the driver lose sight of the lead spotter at any time, the vehicle shall be stopped immediately until the spotter is visible and the communication to continue backing has been processed.
- Under circumstances where the vehicle is manned by only the driver, that vehicle shall attempt to utilize any available fire personnel, regardless of company or department affiliation, to act as spotters.
  1. Where no personnel are available to assist, the vehicle operator shall make a complete 360-degree survey of the area around his/her vehicle to determine if any obstructions are present to backing.
  2. Where no personnel are available to assist, it is the responsibility of the vehicle operator to perform 360-degree surveys of the area around his/her vehicle as frequently as necessary to ensure safe backing of the vehicle.
- When vehicles must be backed in an area where other vehicle traffic exists, the vehicle's emergency lights shall be operating with spotter(s) in place.
- Any backing accident involving Cumru Township Fire Department apparatus shall be reported to the Duty Officer.
- Any backing accident that involves an injury or property damage shall be reported according to the CTFD Policy 9.2 for motor vehicle accidents.

**References:**

9.2 Accident/Injury Report