

BURLINGTON TWP. FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE #46

MANEUVERING PROCEDURE FOR EMERGENCY APPARATUS

Purpose: This policy establishes the department requirements for the safe backing and maneuvering of emergency apparatus.

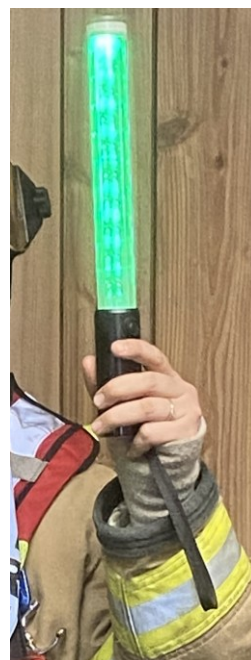
Scope: For all members to safely back and maneuver emergency apparatus.

Vehicle Backing and Maneuvering:

1. Backing of Fire department vehicles should be avoided whenever possible. Where backing is unavoidable a spotter shall be used. In addition, a spotter shall be used when vehicles must negotiate forward turns with restrictive side clearances and where heights clearances are uncertain.
2. Under circumstances where the vehicle is manned by only the driver, that vehicle 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 the vehicle to determine if any obstructions are present.
3. The spotter should be positioned at the driver's side rear or driver's side front of the apparatus, so long as this position provides for a safe location. The spotter must always remain in visual contact with the driver. The driver is required to stop the apparatus if visual contact is lost. The spotter is not permitted to ride tailboard positions while backing the fire apparatus.
4. Front door windows (driver) will be in the down position to allow for maximum communication between spotter and driver.

Hand Signals:

1. If any of the above maneuvers are conducted at night or during times of limited visibility the light wands will be utilized in place of the hands. The light wands will be set to steady green.



2. Come Ahead/Back: Direction given to move the apparatus forward or backward. Both hands above the head with the palm toward the spotter's face, with repeated motions waving back toward the face.



3. Stop: Direction given to stop the apparatus' movement. Both hands are crossed with the hands in a fist. Spotter shall also yell "Stop" loud enough that the driver can hear.



4. Turn Left/Turn Right: Direction given to move the apparatus to the left or right. One arm is extended in the direction of the turn and the other hand is above the head with the palm toward the spotter's face with repeated motions waving back toward the face.

