

STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ARTICLE: C-14
SECTION: Operations Division
DATE: 4/4/96
SUPERSEDES:
TITLE: **PROCEDURE FOR BACKING FIRE APPARATUS**

To provide a safe work environment for fire personnel and reduce the possibility of equipment damage it shall be **Standard Operating Procedure** that any time an apparatus must be backed; a signal person is required to direct the driver. Only one crewmember should be utilized as a signal person. Another person should monitor traffic when necessary and available.

The signal person should always try to be in view of the driver's mirror. (There may be rare exceptions due to conditions where a signal person will have to use the passenger side.)

ONLY IN AN EMERGENCY MAY A DRIVER BACK FIRE APPARATUS WITHOUT A SIGNAL PERSON. Even then the driver should do a walk around the vehicle if possible.

When backing department pickups and cars, and apparatus staffed by one person a signal person is not required due to the lack of staffing in those vehicles. If personnel are available, a signal person may be used. To prevent accidents in these vehicles, a walk around the vehicle by the driver will be required prior to backing.

SIGNALS

Prior to any backing maneuver, the driver must communicate to the signal person what he wants to accomplish and the direction he is going to back.

STRAIGHT BACK:

One hand above the head with the palm toward the face, waving back. Other hand at the side of body. (Left or right hand optional.) See figure 1.

TURN:

Both arms pointing in direction of turn with index fingers extended. See figure 2.

(Driver has option as to the direction he turns and the signal person then assists the driver in guiding the apparatus) **STOP:**

Both arms thrust above the head with open hands and palms away from the face. See figure 3.

NIGHT BACKING:

The signals are the same. The signal person will assure that the spotlights on the rear of the apparatus are turned on before he allows the apparatus to be backed. A flashlight may be carried, but at no time shall it be directed toward any mirror on the apparatus. See figures 4, 5, 6, and 7.

SAFETY:

A helmet should be worn by all signal personnel in traffic.

Once the driver has determined the direction of the turn, the signal person has complete control of the movement of the apparatus. If there is ever a question of safety for either the signal person or the apparatus, stop the maneuver until proper adjustments have been made.

END

Written By: Donald E. Hankins Sr.

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Diagrams