
 ALBEMARLE COUNTY STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	
	Subject:	Emergency Vehicle Backing of Large Vehicles
	Reference Number:	SOG-OPS-013
	Effective Date:	1 March 2005
	Last Revision Date:	26 March 2008
Signature of Approval:	 J. Dan Eggleston, Chief	

Purpose:
 The purpose of this policy is to establish the safest means of backing large emergency vehicles.

Background:
 This policy was adopted by the Albemarle County Fire Rescue Advisory Board at the February 2005 meeting. Revisions were made by the Advisory Board on 26 March 2008.

Definitions:
Large Emergency Vehicles: For the purpose of this SOG, large emergency vehicles are defined as Engines, Trucks, Aerials, Tankers, Squads, Ambulances, Brush Vehicles, Rehab Units, Haz-Mat units, and Vehicles with Trailers.

- Guidelines:**
1. A spotter shall be used whenever a large emergency vehicle must be backed. The spotter shall stand in clear view of the operator at the rear of the vehicle and direct the driver in a manner that will avoid obstructions in the path of travel. The shared responsibility for proper backing procedures lies with both the driver and the spotter.
 2. There must be a clear understanding of what signals shall be used. To ensure clear communications, the driver shall remove his/her headset, and roll down the driver's side window. Mobile or portable radios may be used as needed for clearer communications.
 3. When no one is available to spot while backing the vehicle must be stopped and completely circled by the operator to ensure that there are no obstructions or other dangers before backing.
 4. A spotter should be used *unless* there is a risk to personnel associated with doing so, or circumstances don't adequately allow for a spotter to be utilized.