



SENECA COUNTY

Emergency Services



Standard Administrative Guideline

Subject: Backing of Apparatus
Reference Number: 35

Effective Date: March 1st, 2009

Review Date: Annually/2-2020

Purpose: This policy describes the required actions when it is necessary for EMS apparatus to back up on a scene, at the station, or any time the vehicle is moving in reverse.

Scope: This policy applies to all Seneca County Emergency Service Personnel.

Definition

Apparatus: Apparatus are defined as ambulances, SUVs, trucks, vehicles with trailers, squads, cars, or any vehicle in operation by Seneca County Emergency Services personnel in the performance of their duty.

Policy:

The driver of any apparatus shall be directly responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle. When the driver is under the direct supervision of an officer or acting officer, that officer or acting officer shall also assume responsibility for the actions of the driver.

When backing an apparatus, a minimum of one spotter shall be at the rear of the apparatus. The spotter(s) is/are responsible for guiding the Driver and ensuring that any potential hazards are avoided. They shall position themselves to have an unobstructed view and be in visual and voice/radio contact with the apparatus driver. Spotters shall not ride the tailboard while backing apparatus. If the Driver loses visual contact with the spotter(s), the Driver shall stop the apparatus immediately. Vehicle mounted cameras or other devices are not a substitute for a spotter.

In situations where assistance is not available and the apparatus must be immediately moved, the Driver shall first walk completely around the apparatus before backing to ensure no obstructions will interfere with vehicle operation. The Driver shall also ensure that the backup alarm is functioning at all times.

Authorized exception to this policy:

Department members are exempt from this policy ONLY while personnel in the patient compartment of an ambulance are actively performing emergency medical care when arriving at the emergency room AND IF compliance with the policy would jeopardize patient care. **The driver shall take extraordinary care while backing the vehicle in these situations.**

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Resources:

- International Association of Fire Chiefs, Guide to Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety: www.iafc.org/vehicleSafety

References:

- NFPA 1500, Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program, 2007 edition 6.2.7
- NFPA 1451, Standard for a Fire Service Vehicle Operations Safety Program, 2007 edition

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