



## Manhattan Fire Protection District

SOP #: 451-6	Effective Date: 10/07/10	Revised Date: 07/06/16
Section: Emergency Response Apparatus		
Subject: Backing-Up Apparatus		

### **PURPOSE:**

This procedure is to promote safety and reduce the chance of injury/death to department personnel or the general public when backing up apparatus. This procedure will also reduce the chance of damaging department and public or private property.

### **SCOPE:**

This procedure will apply to all personnel. The driver and officer/acting officer of each vehicle bears full responsibility for compliance with this procedure.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Apparatus:** shall be defined as any motorized vehicle or motor vehicle and trailer combination operated by this department.

**Driver:** shall be defined as personnel whom have been trained, properly licensed, and given approval to operate specified apparatus of this department.

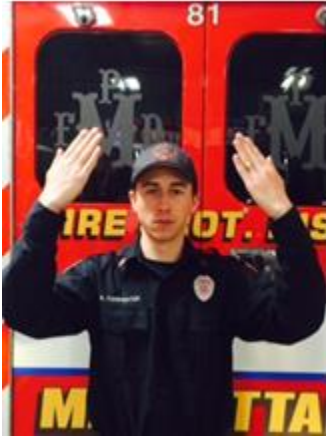
**Officer:** shall be defined as person seated in the front passenger right hand seat whether of officer rank or acting officer of the vehicle.

### **GUIDELINE:**

- If you can avoid backing, avoid it!
- Never be in a hurry when backing.
- Do NOT back when not sure of the area.
- Come to a complete stop prior to putting the vehicle into reverse.
- Roll the window down completely for better vision and hearing.
- Make visual and verbal contact with the spotter(s). 2 spotters shall be utilized when sufficient manpower allows.
- The rear spotter is in place eight to ten feet at the left rear of the unit. The rear spotter shall check for overhead clearance and space on each side of the apparatus, then watch the driver's side of the apparatus for any objects close to the apparatus, spacing of vehicle and watch the mirror.
- The officer/acting officer or second spotter, shall position themselves on the officer side of the apparatus at the front of the apparatus. He/she shall check for ladder rack spacing, objects close to the apparatus and watch the mirrors as well.
- The driver and spotter MUST maintain eye contact at all times. If the driver loses visual or verbal contact of the spotter(s), the driver shall STOP!
- The driver must have knowledge of department backing hand signals, see pictures below.
- The spotter must use department backing hand signals, see pictures below.
- Radios may be used for communications as well.



## Manhattan Fire Protection District



Straight Back



Stop



Go Left



Go Right

### **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:**

Keep warning lights on as well as the back-up alarms when backing apparatus.

### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

If no spotter, leave the apparatus parked in a safe area outside with the wheels chocked. Driver may back the apparatus in only after a circle of safety walk-around of the apparatus has been done, when in severe weather or other dangerous situations. If a spotter cannot be obtained, get out of the apparatus and walk around the apparatus completely and survey the backing area and overhead clearance.

**Approved By:**

**Signature:** Daniel Forsythe

**Date:** 07/06/16