

# APPARATUS BACKING

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- If no spotter is available, the driver shall complete a 360 walk-around before backing.
- Remove headset and roll down the windows.
- See standard hand signals below.

## PROTOCOLS:

1. Avoid backing whenever possible. Spotter use is **mandatory** when available. Use spotters for:
  - Backing
  - Forward turns with restrictive side clearance.
  - Uncertain height clearance.
2. One spotter is the minimum. Consider using multiple when available and place them at as many corners as possible.
  - The left rear spotter is the primary spotter, when only one is used this is the default position. If another position is more advantageous use it.
3. Spotters shall not ride tailboard.
4. Driver and spotters will discuss the backing plan before moving. Spotters should avoid conflicting signals and be equipped with a portable radio.
5. Anytime the driver loses sight of the primary spotter the apparatus shall be immediately stopped. If the spotter needs to recon an area stop the driver first.
6. When backing where pedestrians and other vehicles are present turn on warning lights.
7. Do Not temporarily disable the back-up alarm on the vehicle, exception on the ramp at the hospital if necessary.
8. Spotters shall carry a flashlight at night or when necessary.
9. Apparatus backing is a team sport. Officers are responsible for the complete adherence of this protocol.

# APPARATUS BACKING

**BACK UP STRAIGHT / DRIVE STRAIGHT FORWARD:** (Palms face the direction of desired travel, arms are bent and move repeatedly towards and away from spotter head.)



**TURN:** (The rear of the vehicle should travel in the direction the stationary arm is pointing, the other arm is bent and move repeatedly towards and away from spotter head.)



**STOP:** (Hold arms and hands straight out to one side of the body (in the drivers view); hands facing each other. Indicate the approximate stopping distance remaining. Close hands as driver approaches your target stopping point. When hands touch driver should immediately stop!)

