

Driving Requirements

State and local laws may provide certain exemptions for authorized emergency vehicles from regular traffic laws when responding on emergencies. However, neither state or local laws nor these guidelines are intended to absolve an emergency vehicle driver of the responsibility of due regard for the safety of others on the road.

- A. Fire apparatus may only be operated by individuals meeting all of the following requirements:
- B. Members of Fire Department.
- C. Members who have a valid driver's license.
- D. Members who have successfully completed training for operation of the apparatus based on NFPA 1002- Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications (Trainee drivers may operate apparatus when under the supervision of a qualified driver.)

Before entering a fire station:

- A. A Spotter should always be used when backing, if available.
- B. Consideration must be taken for the possibility of pedestrians within the fire station.

Before exiting from a fire station:

- A. The driver will ensure all apparatus compartment doors are securely closed.
- B. All personnel are seat belted in proper locations.
- C. Ensure apparatus bay door is raised fully and enough clearance is available to clear apparatus height.
- D. Test brakes before entering street.

Safe Driving:

1. All audible and visible warning devices shall be in operation when responding to an emergency incident. Discretion to not run lights and sirens may be used, based on details.
2. The driver shall maintain a speed that is safe under the prevailing conditions.
3. When approaching a controlled intersection (i.e. stop sign, traffic light):
 - A. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may proceed past a stop sign or red light only after slowing down or stopping to ascertain that the intersection is clear.
 - B. The driver or an authorized emergency vehicle may disregard regulations governing the direction of movement and turning in specific directions as long as he/she does not endanger life and/or property.
4. School zone related driving:
 - A. Observe the posted speed limit for school zones when children are present or when speed warning lights are flashing.
 - B. Fire apparatus, both emergency and non-emergency traffic shall stop for school buses loading or unloading as indicated by the buses flashing lights and/or stop sign.
 - C. Lights and Siren must be turned off when entering a school zone with flashing lights.
5. Upon first unit's arrival on an emergency scene:
 - A. The scene should be evaluated.
 - B. If the situation is not urgent, other responding units can be advised to continue to the scene "non-emergency mode" or disregard and return to their respective

stations.

6. Drivers of fire apparatus shall be directly responsible for the safe and prudent operation of the vehicle at all times.
7. Any member of the Lehi Fire Department who is involved in an accident while responding to an incident shall remain on the scene of the accident and immediately notify Dispatch to send another unit; Battalion Chief, and Lehi Police Department.

Backing:

1. Procedure

- A. Before backing a fire department vehicle, the driver shall ensure that the intended path is clear of hazards or obstructions.
- B. One or more spotters shall be employed as guides in all situations where the driver does not have a clear vision of the path of travel.
- C. Two spotters should be assigned whenever possible when backing large or heavy apparatus—one covering each side of the vehicle.
- D. When available, a third spotter can be used to monitor traffic or, especially in the case of aerial apparatus, watch the front of the vehicle for overhead obstructions.

****Light fleet, i.e. Chief's vehicle or the Fire Marshal vehicle shall not require a backer.**

2. **Spotter:**A spotter is responsible for guiding the driver and ensuring that any potential hazards are avoided. Standard signals shall be used to communicate with the driver during the backing maneuver; hand signals or voice signals transmitted over a portable radio can be employed for this purpose. The spotter shall direct the driver to stop at any time the

backing maneuver cannot be completed safely.

A. The spotter(s) shall be on the ground, to the rear of the vehicle, and shall remain visible to the driver at all times. If the driver loses sight of the spotter(s) at any time, the driver shall immediately stop the vehicle.

B. Portable radios or tethered vehicle-mounted intercom systems are recommended for spotters' safety. In no case are cameras or safety devices a substitute for a spotter. (NFPA 1500 requires at least one spotter to have contact with the driver.)

C. If it is essential to back a vehicle with limited rearward visibility and no spotter is available, the driver shall stop, dismount, and visually perform a 360-degree check around the vehicle before backing, with emphasis on the area behind and to both sides. After checking the area, the driver shall back the vehicle at slow speed and with extreme caution, prepared to stop immediately if necessary.

Signals for spotting

- i. Straight Back: One hand above the head with palm toward face, waving back. Other hand at your side. (Left or right hand optional)
- ii. Turn: Both arms pointing the same direction with index fingers extended. (Driver will advise the spotter which way the turn will be made. The spotter then assists the driver in backing apparatus. The driver's intentions must be verbally communicated to the spotter.)
- iii. Stop: Both arms crossed with hands in fist. Be sure to yell the stop order loud enough that the driver can hear the warning.

Night Backing

- A. Signals will be the same.
- B. The spotter will ensure that the spotlights on rear of apparatus are turned on before allowing apparatus to be backed.
- C. A flashlight may be carried, but at no time will it be directed toward the mirror.
- D. When backing an apparatus, a minimum of one spotter shall be at the rear of the apparatus.
- E. The spotter(s) is/are responsible for guiding the Driver and ensuring that any potential hazards are avoided.
- F. The spotter shall position themselves to have an unobstructed view and be in visual and voice/radio contact with the apparatus driver.
- G. Spotters shall not ride the tailboard while backing the apparatus.
- H. If the Driver loses visual contact with the spotter(s), the Driver shall stop the apparatus immediately.
- I. Vehicle mounted cameras or other devices are not a substitute for a spotter.
- J. 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.