

Madison County Department of Emergency Medical Services

Standard Operating Guideline



Title	Backing Vehicles
Number	026
Adoption Date	1/1/07
Revision Date	
Approved by	Lewis Jenkins, EMS Director



Purpose:

To provide a guideline establishing the safest means of backing all Madison County/MCRS apparatus.

Policy:

1. A spotter must be used whenever a department or squad vehicle must be backed. The spotter shall direct the driver in a manner that will avoid obstructions in the path of travel.
2. The spotter's areas of concern are the rear, the left and right sides, and those areas above and below the apparatus. There must be a clear understanding of what signals shall be used and the driver will keep driver's side window down for ease of communication with the spotter.
3. When no one is available to spot while backing, the vehicle must be stopped and completely circled by the operator, to see that there are no obstructions or other dangers. The vehicle may then be cautiously backed while watching for vehicles, obstructions, and/or pedestrians that may enter the path of the moving vehicle.
4. EMS vehicles with three-member crews shall use one person as a spotter. EMS units with two people shall keep backing to a minimum when a patient is in the rear.
5. EMS personnel will use a spotter when unit is being backed into station bays.