




DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.

DIRECTIVE

NUMBER: 91-20

DATE: September 25, 1991

TO: All DFRS Personnel

FROM:  Ramon F. Granados, Director
Department of Fire and Rescue Services

SUBJECT: Angle of Departure of Fire/Rescue Apparatus

The Department has experienced a number of "dragging or scrapping" accidents which are either caused by the unique lay of the land, or the angle of departure of the apparatus. Attached is a method to be used to determine the angle of departure of all the units.

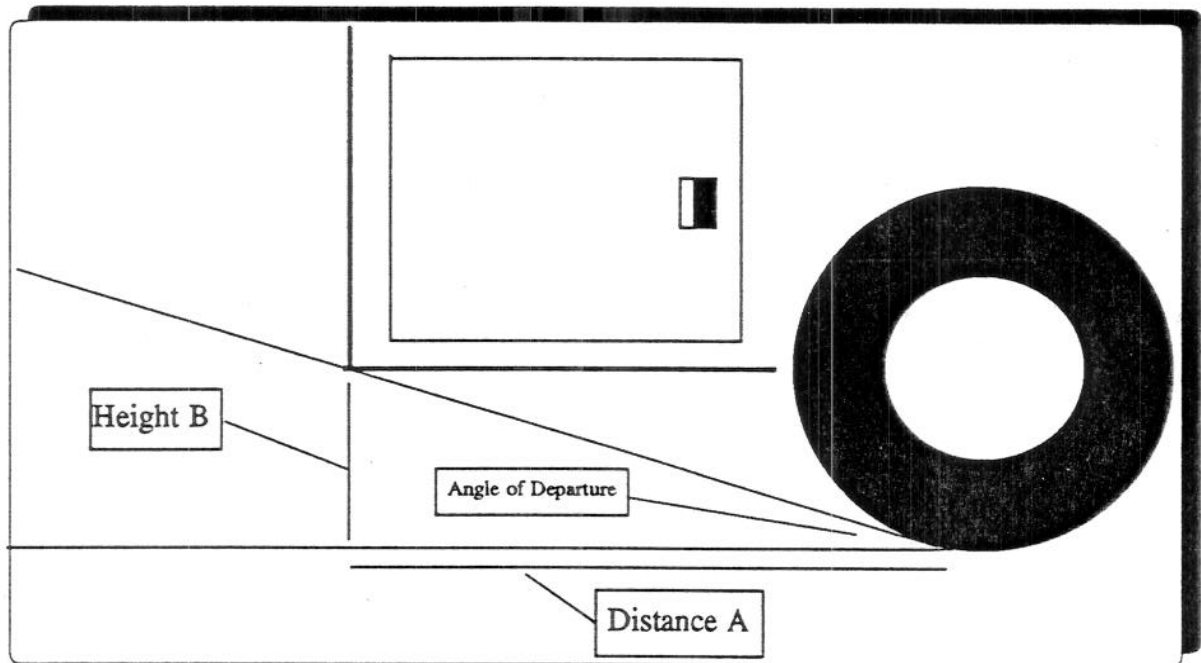
Station Commanders are to have their personnel calculate the angle of departure of their apparatus and forward the results to the Safety Officer, Station 20, by November 1, 1991 by memorandum. It is suggested that each shift make a calculation for training purposes and comparisons.

The N.F.P.A. minimum standard for this angle is 8.4 degrees, and by having our personnel provide these calculations, it is hoped that each person will become more aware of the accident potential. This information will also be of assistance for future apparatus specifications and the Accident/Incident Review Committee determinations.

0688e

Calculation of Angle of Departure

A Simple Three Step Approach

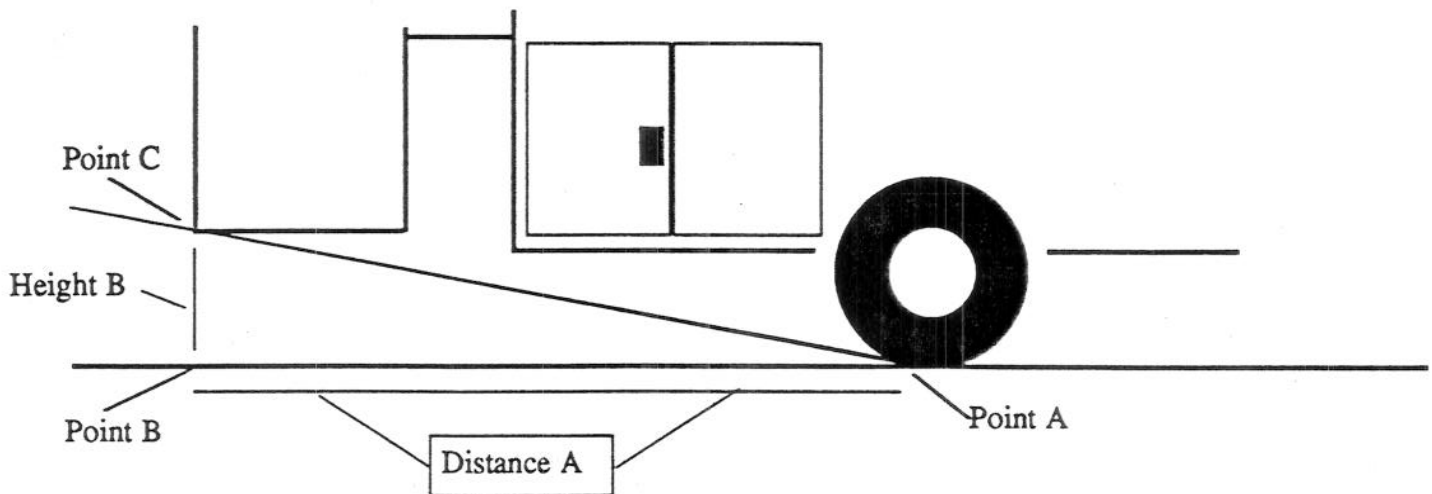


Prepared By
Keith Nachbar
Safety Section
Division of Risk Management
June, 1991

Calculating the Angle of Departure

Three Easy Steps

- 1.** Move the apparatus onto a flat level surface. From the rearmost road contact point of the rear tire (Point A), stretch a line toward the back of the apparatus. Raise the line upward and determine the object that first makes contact with the line (Point C). The imaginary right angle between Points A and C will be called Point B.



- 2.** Measure the horizontal distance (on the floor) from Point A to Point B. This is Distance A. Now measure the height of Point C off the floor (distance B to C). This is Height B.

- 3.** On the attached tables, find Distance A and Height B. The calculated angle of departure can be found at the intersection of these two dimensions on the table.

For example:

Distance A: 193"
Height B: 29"

From the attached table the angle of departure is: 8.5 degrees.

If your dimensions do not appear on the attached table, contact Keith Nachbar of Risk Management (217-7243) for an individual calculation.

