



Did YOU know?



Spotters

Deploying spotters is more than a formality.

- Spotters are an extension of the eyes and ears of the operator. Operators need to use them and treat them that way. Spotters are required by policy for backing, but they may be necessary in other situations.
- Spotters and operators are monitoring a moving six-sided box. Look ahead, behind, side to side, and above and below the apparatus. Sources of damage include:
 - * Trees
 - * Signs
 - * Mailboxes
 - * Fences
 - * Drainage ditches
 - * Landscaping rocks
 - * Retaining walls
 - * Parked vehicles
 - * High curbs
 - * Storm drains
 - * Utility poles
 - * Guardrails
- Spotters need to wear a traffic vest where visibility is reduced or other vehicles are in motion and carry a flashlight to see and be seen. Spotters need to position themselves to be seen by the operator and maintain clearance between themselves and the apparatus.
- Operators must go at a speed that allows spotters to simultaneously watch the apparatus, walk, and monitor approaching traffic.
- Operators need to be predictable and make their intentions clear to not only other traffic, but to their spotters. Spotters are most effective when they know where the apparatus is going. Discuss the next move before the spotters dismount the apparatus.
- Spotters must allow operators a chance to safely stop. If a spotter isn't sure if the operator sees the distances closing they need to signal a stop and talk to the operator.
- When positioning for a particularly complicated situation or when visual contact cannot be maintained between the spotter and operator, consider using talk-around channels to enable direct communication between the operator and personnel on foot.
- Spotters need to act decisively and assertively to help operators avoid collisions.
- Operators need to communicate clearly with spotters and use them as a resource.