



**SAFETY CIRCULAR 11/2017**

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**USE OF A GUIDE WHEN REVERSING DFES VEHICLES**

A Light Tanker was involved in an incident, where it rolled down an embankment and onto its roof while it was being reversed. The driver received minor injuries and the vehicle was damaged beyond repair. The driver or a member of the public could have easily been severely injured or killed.

**Critical Message:** SOP 3.3.1- Driving Emergency Vehicles must be followed at all times. At no time should a vehicle reverse without the use of a controller to guide the vehicle.

All personnel are to ensure they are familiar with [SOP 3.3.1 – Driving Emergency Vehicles](#) which directs all operational vehicles to have a guide/s while reversing:

**7. Reversing and Use of Controller for Operational Vehicles.** Drivers are to be assisted by ground-based crew members at all times who shall direct reversing movements while ensuring the surface is appropriate for the vehicle type. Assistance is to be provided as follows:

<i>Vehicles - General</i>	<i>A crew member will alight from the vehicle and having ascertained that all is clear at the rear of the vehicle, the assisting crew member is to be positioned at the rear or front of the vehicle (whatever safety considerations dictate) in full sight of the driver, and direct the reversing movements.</i>
<i>Aerial Vehicles</i>	<i>When an oversize aerial vehicle is being reversed in the vicinity of other vehicles, two crew members are to assist – one in front of the driver and the other at the offside rear of the vehicle in sight of the forward crew member.</i>

Reversing cameras are not a substitute for a guide, as they do not provide a wide field of view. All personnel are to ensure this procedure is followed at all times.

**LLOYD BAILEY** AFSM  
**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS**

Full links for staff and volunteers:  
<https://extranet.dfes.wa.gov.au/sites/volunteers/members/SharedRepository/opsresources/Ops%20Resources%20%20SOPs%20Field%20Guides/SOP%203.3.1%20-%20Driving%20Emergency%20Vehicles.pdf>

Target Audience: All drivers of emergency vehicles.				
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