

DATE:	DECEMBER 4, 2015
NUMBER:	I.40
SUBJECT:	VEHICLE SAFETY
RELATED SECTIONS:	I.5 , I.57 and SDSD P&P 5.4

PURPOSE

To establish Detention Services Bureau (DSB) safety guidelines for the use of a "rear observer" when operating department vehicles.

POLICY

Whenever possible, all Sheriff's department employees operating department vehicles in reverse shall use a "rear observer". The rear observer shall be in a position to control traffic and assist the driver in avoiding accidents.

PROCEDURES

I. DRIVER

- A. Whenever possible, the driver of a county vehicle shall utilize a rear observer when backing.
- B. When using a rear observer both the driver and the rear observer shall make sure there is a good line of communication between the two positions. A good line of communication is where the driver and rear observer maintain sight of the other and through mutual understanding agrees on specific hand signals to be used during the backing procedure.
- C. In the event the driver of the vehicle does not understand what the rear observer is trying to convey with the hand signals, the backing procedure shall be stopped until the signals are clarified and are understood.

II. REAR OBSERVER

This position becomes extra eyes and ears for the driver. While the vehicle is being backed, the rear observer shall monitor the area around the rear of the vehicle. The rear observer should keep a close watch for other vehicles and persons moving around while the vehicle is in motion. The rear observer should be ready to give the signal to stop if any pedestrian, vehicle or other obstacle moves or is in the vehicle's path of travel. In the event the driver is not watching the rear observer and an emergency situation occurs, the rear observer shall get the driver's attention by voice or by slapping the side of the vehicle with an open hand to regain the driver's attention.