



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
Standard Operating Guideline  
**BACKING OF APPARATUS**

*Randy L. Beadle*

Fire Chief Signature

January 1, 2021

**SOG: 011**

Effective: 01Apr13  
Revised: 01Jan2021  
Page: 1 of 1

**Purpose:**

This policy describes the required actions of the Driver and spotter when it is necessary to back up fire apparatus.

**Definition**

Apparatus is defined as engines, trucks, tankers, and utility vehicles, referred to in this policy as 'Vehicles'.

**Policy**

The driver of any GFD vehicle shall be directly responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle at all times. When the driver is under the direct supervision of an officer or acting officer, that officer or acting officer shall also assume responsibility for the actions of the Driver.

When backing a vehicle, a minimum of one spotter shall be at the rear of the apparatus. The spotter(s) is/are responsible for guiding the Driver and ensuring that any potential hazards are avoided. The spotter shall be in a position to have an unobstructed view of the Driver and be in visual and voice/radio contact with the Driver.

When backing any apparatus, all emergency lights need to be operating.

Spotters shall not ride the tailboard while backing apparatus. If the Driver loses visual contact with the spotter(s), the Driver shall stop the apparatus immediately. Mounted or installed vehicle cameras or other similar devices are not a substitute for a spotter.

In situations where assistance is not available and the vehicle must be immediately moved, the Driver shall first walk completely around the apparatus before backing to ensure no obstructions will interfere with vehicle operation.