



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
Standard Operating Guideline  
**RAILWAY INCIDENTS**

**SOG: 044**

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Fire Chief Signature

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**Purpose:** To establish standards for GFD operations during emergency incidents involving railway accidents, including safety considerations, responsibility, precautions, notification, safety considerations, and resources.

Once a railway incident is confirmed, notify dispatch to alert all trains in the area, in both directions, to stop immediately. Verify that all trains have been notified and have stopped prior to committing personnel to the incident area.

Ask Dispatch to relay a staffed phone number for the railroad line that can be used as the incident progresses and establish an ETA for a train company representative(s) to report to the scene, if available.

Establish an Incident Commander (IC) and an Incident Command Post (ICP).

- Notify dispatch to request the Incident Command Vehicle from the Sheriff's Office if deemed necessary.
- Request any MABAS assets (lighting, tents, non-permanent structures, 6-wheeler, etc.) that are needed for the duration of the incident.
- Establish a Safety Officer.
- Request the Galena Ambulance to assist with Rehabilitation.
- Establish remote staging areas and determine a plan to coordinate traffic flow.

#### **Initial Considerations**

- If possible, approach any railroad incident from the uphill and upwind side, due to possible hazardous materials.
- Use binoculars to perform initial "Scene Size-Up" from a safe distance.
- Attempt to contact the engineer or a railroad employee to obtain the manifest or other valuable information, providing that the scene is safe to do so.
- Note and write down the railroad car or tanker car numbers and note the placards, tank capacity, railroad registration etc. Use tank car identification number to verify hazard.

#### **Scene Size-Up**

- Time of day.
- Weather conditions (temperature, rain, ice, wind velocity and direction etc.).
- Determine occupancies in the immediate area or within a potential evacuation area, depending on cargo and hazards.
- Access option to the incident from both sides by emergency equipment and other heavy vehicles. Determine if any roads are either blocked or otherwise inaccessible to GFD vehicles.
- Determine if there are any injured or potentially injured victims.
- Determine if there is fire involved for fire impingement on any railway car or structure.
- Identify hazardous materials involved.
  - Are chemicals mixing and/or forming vapor clouds?
  - Are liquids running down into ditches, streams or sewers?
  - Is there a need to limit public access by establishing a perimeter based on the hazard(s) involved?
  - Is there a need to evacuate occupants or to keep occupants indoors?



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Emergency activity at railway accidents may take considerable time.

- Be prepared to rotate firefighter crews.
- Utilize firefighter rehabilitation as well as hydration and nourishment.
- Be prepared to setup and operate emergency lighting, SBCA tank refill, and other considerations over a long period of time.
- Be alert for weather changes, especially those that affect the wind and wind direction in the event of hazard material involvement.

Keep firefighters and other personnel a safe distance back from actual railway heavy equipment activities such as righting cars and placing them back on tracks.

Maintain contact with the Railroad Line as needed.