



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
Standard Operating Guideline  
**FARM ACCIDENTS**

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**Purpose:** To establish standards for GFD operations during farms emergencies and related incidents, including safety considerations, responsibility, precautions, notification, safety considerations, and resources.

Once a farm accident is confirmed with injuries, notify dispatch to ensure that EMS is enroute, and determine the need for additional resources and personnel.

**Pre-arrival information**

Does the incident involve a tractor, combine, augur or other agricultural equipment?

Where is the exact location of the incident?

Is the farmer or anyone familiar with the equipment present?

Is a grain bin or silo rescue required?

Are farm animals involved (bites, kicks, gore)?

What hazardous materials are involved?

**Upon arrival**

- Establish Incident Command (IC) designation and an Incident Command Post (ICP).
- Request any MABAS assets (personnel, heavy rescue, lighting, tent, 6 wheeler, helicopter, etc.) that are needed for the duration of the incident.
- Establish a Safety Officer.
- Request the Galena Ambulance to assist with Rehabilitation.
- Establish staging areas and determine a plan to coordinate traffic flow.
- Attempt to contact a witness or family member to obtain information about the accident or other valuable information.
- Note any hazardous materials involvement as well as other scene hazards associated with the incident or with the extrication or disentanglement.

**Scene Size-Up**

- Identify any hazards-fire, poisons, chemicals, explosives, unstable structures or ground, adverse weather conditions, leaking fluids (hydraulic oil, battery acids, motor oils, gas or diesel fuels and agriculture chemicals, etc.).
- Notify the County Haz-Mat Team for chemical spills or leaks such as anhydrous ammonia.
- Anticipating a possible lengthy incident, determine the time of day and weather conditions.
- Determine the best access route into the incident scene and whether all-terrain vehicles are necessary.
- Anticipate emergency equipment and determine access capability of heavy vehicles.
- Determine if any roads are either blocked or otherwise inaccessible to GFD vehicles.

**Considerations**

- Turn off involved farm equipment even if engine is not running. Chock/secure wheels touching the ground and use cribbing on machine frames.



## FARM ACCIDENTS

- Extrication from farm equipment is similar to auto extrication except that tractors and farm implement is heavily constructed and disassembly may be preferred over equipment used for regular vehicles.
- Solicit the advice and assistance of family members and farm neighbors who may be more familiar with the operation and disassembly of the machinery.
- If necessary contact manufacturer of involved equipment.

### **Silo or Grain Bin Rescue**

- Discuss an incident action plan with other officers on scene.
- Always monitor oxygen levels in bin or silo.
- With a gas meter, measure oxygen quality and presence of hazardous gases.
- Do not hesitate to contact a Technical Rescue Team if needed.
- Lay out ready ropes, harnesses, cutting tools, EMS gear and SCBAs.
- Rescue team members may know the victim and family. Watch for team member reactions and address accordingly.
- Communicate with family members and assign a Firefighter or EMT to care for them.
- Contact appropriate law enforcement agency to assist as needed.

### **Farm accidents have the potential to 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, SCBA tank refill, and other considerations over a long duration.
- Be alert for weather changes, especially those that affect the wind and wind direction in the event of hazardous material involvement.