



# Rapid Lesson Sharing

Montana DNRC  
August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

**Summary of incident:** On August 1st, 2019 at approximately 0915, a DNRC engine crew was responding to a smoke report located off an old logging road system. Weather conditions were clear with a temperature of 65 degrees and the road was dry and in decent shape. The crew decided to back up ~50 feet to flag the intersection in case additional resources were needed. The engine crew relied on mirrors and a backup camera and did not to use a spotter for the maneuver. While backing up the driver was following the contour of road using his passenger side mirror, unaware of the sharp turn and steep slope of the road on the passenger side of the engine. This resulted with the engine backing off the road near the intersection. The engine crew notified the Unit AFMO and Missoula Dispatch of the situation and reported no injuries or major damage to the vehicle. A response was initiated by the AFMO with a towing company from town. The engine was successfully pulled out of the ditch with the aid of a tow truck and driven into town for an inspection.



## **What was done well:**

1. Seat belts were in use at the time of the incident, preventing serious injury.
2. The engine crew had contacted dispatch while en-route, confirming accountability and location of resources.
3. The engine crew conducted a quick assessment of the situation and personnel and initiated the proper response for help.
4. An AAR was conducted as soon as all parties were available, resulting in this RLS.

## **Recommendations/Lessons Learned:**

1. Always use a spotter when backing up!
2. Situational Awareness- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
3. Do not rely on modern technology (backup camera) to take shortcuts.
4. Consider risk management in all decisions- If you see something, say something!

**This RLS was submitted by:**

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