



Engulfment Prevention

As harvest time begins, on-farm grain engulfment incidents have already made their way into the news cycle.

Last year, there were at least 38 grain entrapment cases resulting in 17 deaths in the United States, representing a 15 percent increase in recorded entrapments from 2013, according to an annual report from Purdue University. Over 80 percent of those incidents occurred in farm bins that are not covered by OSHA's **grain handling standard**, which applies solely to commercial grain handling facilities.

While a busy harvest season continues, NGFA has the resources to address **common grain entrapment hazards**, as well as the appropriate safety standards for farm and commercial facilities.

Contact NGFA for more information or to share these resources.



NGFA has the resources...

A worker should not enter a grain storage unit unless absolutely necessary. But if you find it necessary to have employees enter a bin, silo or tank, follow the applicable practices found in OSHA's grain handling facilities standard, which took effect in 1988, to help minimize the risk.



[Grain Bin Entry Safety Practices \(poster\)](#)

[OSHA Grain Bin Safety and Health Topics](#)

[View all NGFA safety materials.](#)

And the expertise...

Safety standards for employees entering grain bins include:

- issuing written permits before entry occurs, unless the employer or its representative is present during the entire operation;
- disconnecting all mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and pneumatic equipment feeding or emptying the structure that presents a danger to persons while inside bins, silos or tanks;
- equipping persons entering bins, silos or tanks from the top with body harnesses with lifelines, or a boatswain's chair meeting OSHA requirements.



A center grain unloading auger draws grain from the top center and the grain forms a cone as the bin is emptied. Illustration: John A. Kramer, Safety Measures in Handling Stored Grain, Kansas State University, February 1989.

Contact Jess McCluer, NGFA Director of Safety and Regulatory Affairs.

...To keep your employees safe.

The National Corn Growers Association and the National Grain and Feed Foundation (NGFF) - the NGFA's research and education arm - created a joint DVD project to promote grain bin safety on the farm.



Preview the video for more information.

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