



National Grain and Feed Association

www.ngfa.org

NGFA Safety Tips: Truck Receiving Areas (Truck Dumps)

...Committed to promoting safety and health in the workplace...

Hazards

Employees working in truck receiving areas may face hazards, including struck-by and back-over incidents, slips and falls, overexertion, as well as exposure to respirable dust and excessive noise. These risks can be mitigated, controlled, or minimized with personal protective equipment, proper housekeeping, effective communication, appropriate work positioning, and adherence to industry best practices.



Personal Protective Equipment

It is recommended that employees use appropriate personal protective equipment as needed, including head, hand, eye, hearing, and respiratory protection to safeguard against excessive noise, respirable dust, flying objects, head injuries, and lacerations from burrs on hopper gate handles. Additionally, wearing high-visibility clothing is recommended to ensure drivers can easily see individuals in the receiving area.

Housekeeping

It is important to keep walking and working surfaces clean and free of slip and trip hazards. To avoid slip and trip hazards:

- Clean up grain spills promptly after each load.
- Avoid walking on loose or spilled grain. Walking on soybeans is like walking on marbles.
- Store brooms, shovels, and air hoses properly when not in use.

Communications/Positioning

Proper communication between the driver and employees can prevent struck-by and back-over incidents. **Struck-by** incidents happen when workers are struck by moving vehicles. **Back-over** incidents take place when reversing vehicles impact workers who are standing, walking, or kneeling near or under them. To prevent struck-by and back-over incidents:

NGFA Safety Program

- The NGFA is committed to promoting safety and health in the workplace and shares the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) commitment to protecting employees.
- The NGFA's extensive efforts to enhance safety include unprecedented research and education efforts launched in the early 1980s that helped lead to a dramatic reduction in the number of fire and explosion incidents in commercial grain-handling facilities.
- Each year, NGFA jointly sponsors regional safety seminars with affiliated state and regional grain and feed associations. The one-day conferences focus on keeping grain handling employees safe.

- Maintain communication with the driver. If there are two employees in the receiving area, only one should direct the vehicle's movement.
- Make sure hand signals are consistent and understood by the driver and coworkers.
- Position yourself to the side of the receiving pit while ensuring you remain visible to the vehicle operator. Remember, if you are unable to see the driver in their rearview mirror, they are unable to see you. Always make sure the driver sees you before operating vehicle equipment.
- Instruct the driver to place the vehicle in neutral and engage the parking brake when positioned at the receiving pit.
- Be mindful of both forward and reverse movements of vehicles.
- Avoid crossing in front of vehicles even if they are out of gear.
- Never cross or position your body underneath a vehicle.
- Avoid placing yourself between the vehicle and a stationary object, truck and trailer, tractor and trailer, or in front of a trailer wheel.

Ergonomics/Body Mechanics

To prevent soft tissue injuries such as back and shoulder strains while operating hopper gates, it is essential to utilize proper body mechanics. Position the feet shoulder-width apart, bend the knees slightly and keep the back straight. Operate hopper handles gradually, and refrain from overexertion if the handle sticks.

Additional Best Practices

Additional industry best practices include:

- Display "NO SMOKING" signs at the entrance and inside the receiving area and enforce the "NO SMOKING" policy.
- Do not use cell phones in receiving areas.
- Ensure that the maximum receiving grate opening size complies with the OSHA requirement of 2.5 inches. This helps prevent large objects from entering the grain stream and reduces the risk of falls and ankle injuries.
- Avoid climbing or entering trailers or trucks to inspect or clean them.



More safety information at www.ngfa.org

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