



# Grain Bin Safety

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the [Occupational Safety web page](#).

## General Information

Entering a grain bin is a necessary task on the farm. It can be done safely as long as procedures are followed.

## Precautions

- Never enter a grain bin during the loading or unloading process.
- If you must enter a grain bin before any grain has been taken out, be cautious about wet, moldy, or spoiled grain.
  - Wet or moldy grain can give off toxic gases and create an oxygen deprived environment.
- If you must enter a grain bin after grain has been removed, be aware of “bridged” or “crusted” grain.
  - “Bridged” or “crusted” grain can collapse and cause suffocation.
  - Do not enter unless the grain has clearly been flowing and is funnel-shaped and unloading equipment is locked out.
  - A safety harness may be necessary under certain conditions.
- When cleaning out a grain bin, stay away from the unload traps.
- Stay on the back side of the sweep auger and never remove the shield.
- Never clean out or enter a grain bin alone.
- Make sure entry points to the bin are secure from children or other visitors.
- Communication between all workers around grain bins is essential.

## Emergency Preparation

- What is the plan if someone gets trapped in a grain bin?
- Do not run the unload auger as it will increase danger for the victim.
- Cut relief holes in the side of the grain bin under direction of emergency personnel.



**Discussion Date:**

**Supervisor:**

**Participants:**