

Montana Ag Safety Program



Auger Safety

On a per-hour-of-use basis, augers are one of the most dangerous pieces of agricultural equipment used by farmers, ranchers, and grain handlers. The majority of all auger-involved accidents are operator caused. The most common accidents involving augers are:

1. Loss of limbs, cuts, and fractures due to contact with or entanglement with exposed flighting, drive belt, or PTO
2. Electrocution

- Choose augers of adequate capacity and maintain operations so as not to overload the auger
 - Length and diameter are important considerations
 - Do not use lumber, blocks, or other means of increasing auger height
- Use all your senses – if something looks, sounds, feels, or smells wrong; take time to investigate the cause and resolve it as soon as possible
- Utilize all shields and guards, including intake screens
- Read and follow all manufacturer operation specifications and procedures
- Regularly inspect winch and cable (or other raising system)
- Ensure adequate oil levels in gear box and drive box
- Shut off and lock out power before adjusting, servicing, or cleaning the equipment
- Carefully select auger sites – level ground free of obstacles is preferred
 - Watch for overhead obstructions – particularly overhead power lines
 - ELECTROCUTION CAN OCCUR WITHOUT DIRECT CONTACT
- Avoid standing directly underneath the auger
- Do not move an auger manually, always use an appropriate transport vehicle
 - Use extreme caution when attaching or releasing the auger from the transport vehicle
- Only transport augers empty and in the “full down” position
- NEVER ride on the auger
- Anchor the intake end of the auger and chock wheels
- Wear adequate PPE (Hand, eye, ear, and foot protection)
 - No loose-fitting clothing or jewelry; long hair should be tied back
- Strive for a “normal” shutdown
 - Empty the hopper and auger before stopping the equipment
 - Be familiar with emergency shut-down procedures
- NEVER step or reach over a running PTO
- Minimize the number of individuals around the auger during operation
- Never use hands or feed to redirect product flow into the auger

These safety rules have been written and provided to you for your safety. Your signature below indicates you have read and understand these rules, and further, that you accept the responsibility of always using good judgment to make workplace safety your number one priority.

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