

Montana Ag Safety Program



Grain Bin Safety

- Suffocation is the leading cause of death in grain storage bins. Suffocation can occur when one becomes engulfed by grain. Engulfment can occur in less than a minute.
- Grain dust is extremely combustible! Use extreme caution with any sources of ignition. Eliminate large accumulations of dust, when possible.
- Augers and conveyors pose significant entanglement and amputation hazards. Use all shields and guards.
- Bins may contain unhealthy levels of airborne contaminants from molds, fumigants, and gasses released from spoiled grain; test air quality before entering the bin.
- Unauthorized personnel and children should never be allowed near grain bins, wagons, or trailers.
- Use a large pole to break crusted or bridged grain from outside the bin. NEVER enter a bin below material that is bridged.
- NEVER “walk down” grain to encourage grain flow.
- Use fall protection devices, when available. Permanent ladders > 20 feet long should be surrounded by a safety cage. All ladders should extend a minimum of 3 ½ feet above the structure.
- Whenever possible, work from outside the bin, but when entry is unavoidable:
 - Wear all appropriate PPE including a dust mask/respirator and harness attached to a properly secured rope and anchor.
 - Know the location of all emergency exits. Brightly painted stripes above or behind the bin ladder can be helpful in locating them in the event of an emergency.
 - Stay near the outside wall. If grain begins to flow, get to the bin ladder as quickly as possible.
 - NEVER work alone. There should always be at least one person supervising from outside the bin. Ideally, 1 person to enter the bin, 1 person to remain at the entrance to the bin, 1 person to remain on the ground.
 - Stay out of bins/trailers/wagons while unloading equipment is running. Shut off power to all unloading equipment. Use appropriate lockout procedures to avoid accidental starting.
 - Use a communication device.

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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