

Confined Space Safety in Storage Tanks & Grain Bins

Key Safety Points:

- Hazards of Confined Spaces: Grain bins and storage tanks are classified as confined spaces and can pose serious risks such as oxygen deficiency, toxic gases, and entrapment. Always treat these areas with extreme caution.
- Permit-Required Confined Space: Before entering a grain bin or storage tank, ensure a permit is issued and all necessary safety measures are in place. This includes ventilation, gas monitoring, and lockout/tagout procedures to prevent accidental machine start-ups.
- Air Quality Testing: Use gas detectors to monitor for harmful gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and hydrogen sulfide before entering. Never enter a confined space without testing the air and ensuring it is safe.
- Ventilation & Rescue Plans: Ensure proper ventilation in confined spaces. Always have a rescue plan in place, including a method of communication and personnel trained in confined space rescue operations.
- Buddy System: Never enter a grain bin or tank alone. Always work in pairs to ensure immediate help is available in case of an emergency. The person outside should always be prepared to act in the event of an emergency.
- Grain Bin Entrapment Prevention: Never enter a grain bin when it is flowing or being unloaded. Stand clear of the unloading auger and always keep the entry points closed while the bin is in operation.