

Grain Bin Entrapment & Silo Safety: Local Risks & Rescue Planning

Why It Matters:

Grain bin entrapments happen quickly—within seconds, a worker can be trapped, and in under a minute, they can be completely submerged. Wisconsin sees multiple farm fatalities each year due to grain bin accidents.

Key Safety Points:

- Never enter a grain bin alone—always have a second person outside monitoring.
- Turn off and lockout/tagout all augers and conveyors before entry.
- Wear a harness and lifeline if entry is necessary.
- Be aware of bridged grain and grain walls—they can collapse unexpectedly.
- Have an emergency rescue plan and ensure workers are trained in grain bin safety.

Real-Life Risks:

- A Wisconsin farmer was trapped in a bin for over an hour before being rescued—many aren't so lucky.
- In some cases, bystanders who attempt a rescue also become trapped.

Discussion Questions:

- What safety measures do we currently have in place for grain bin entry?
- How can we improve our emergency rescue plan?