

Silo Gas & Fermentation Hazards in Dairy & Grain Farms

Key Safety Points:

- Silo Gas Awareness: Silo gas, which forms when freshly harvested grain ferments, can be toxic and deadly. The most dangerous gases include carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and sulfur dioxide.
- Ventilation: Ensure that silos are well-ventilated before entering. Always test the air quality before entering any silo. Never enter a silo alone, and always have a rescue plan in place.
- Signs of Silo Gas Exposure: Symptoms of exposure include dizziness, headaches, difficulty breathing, or nausea. If any of these symptoms occur, exit the area immediately and seek medical attention.
- Never Enter without Proper Safety Measures: Never enter a silo for cleaning, repairs, or inspection without following lockout/tagout procedures and ensuring proper ventilation.
- Fermentation Process Safety: Be aware of the fermentation process, which produces gas. Avoid inhaling the gases, and always use breathing protection when working near silos during harvest or fermentation.
- Emergency Response Plan: Have a rescue plan in place. Ensure that everyone on the farm is trained on the risks of silo gas and knows how to respond in an emergency.