

GRAIN BIN RESCUE PROCEDURES

1. Be sure the auger or unloading equipment is shut off and locked out.
2. Contact an emergency rescue team or fire department.
3. Ventilate the bin with an aeration system, if one is present. Do not active the heat source.
4. Avoid putting additional pressure on the victim.
 - Stay away from the area immediately around the victim.
 - Use a ladder, plywood, or other material to distribute weight.
 - Keep unnecessary personnel out of the grain bin.
5. Protect rescuers
 - Attach safety lines to rescuers.
 - Use respiratory protection as required; i.e., dust filter masks, filter respirators, or SCBA.
6. Construct a retaining wall if the surrounding grain slope is above victim's head.
 - Use plywood, sheet metal, large trash cans with the bottoms removed, or heavy cardboard cylinders to keep grain from the victim's chest area or higher.
 - Build a self-supporting box or brace walls to prevent collapse.
 - You may need a series of retaining walls.
7. Remove grain from around the victim.
 - Attach a harness to the victim to prevent further submersion in the grain, but don't try to pull the victim with a line and a harness before removing the grain (hoist or block and tackle removal can cause serious injury).
 - Use a vacuum conveyor or scoop to remove grain from around victim.
 - Be careful when parts of the victim are not visible to avoid further injury.
8. Cut holes in the bin and drain.
 - Do this immediately if the victim is completely submersed.
 - Cut at least two holes on opposite sides; three to four holes symmetrically spaced are recommended. More holes can be cut for large bins.
 - Use a u-shaped or v-shaped cut.
 - Make a cut about 30 to 40 inches across between the bolt lines of a single sheet (do not cut across vertical or horizontal bin sheet joints).
 - Locate holes just below the feet of a partially submerged victim or as low as possible if victim is not visible.
 - You can use an air chisel, power saw, tractor loader, or cutting torch.
 - Drain the grain uniformly from two, three, or four holes around the bin.
9. Provide for the victim.
 - Assist the victim's breathing by using oxygen or SCBA.
 - Maintain body temperature with saline plasma I.V. or other means.
 - Communicate with the patient about his/her condition and the rescue activities taking place.
 - Plan ahead for removal of the patient from the bin.
10. Be patient and don't give up (victims have survived complete burial in grain for two hours).

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Date