



Tractor Talks

Grain Bins and Silos



Grain bins and silos pose many dangers including the risk of engulfment, suffocation, grain dust exposures, and explosions. If there are grain bins or silos at your job site:

- **Avoid entering a grain bin or silo unless necessary. And you have been trained to enter confined spaces.**

- **Turn off and lock out all powered equipment.**

Use a harness and lifeline. *If entering at or above the level of stored grain use a harness and lifeline and do not remove it until you are safely out.*

- **Test the air using an air meter** — *is there enough oxygen (20.9%) and no toxic and/or flammable gases present?*

- **Do not walk on or “down” the grain to make it flow.**

- **Do not enter without rescue equipment and a rescue-trained observer stationed outside who is in constant contact with you.**

Follow all of your employer’s confined space entry permit processes and safety precautions.



Things to Remember...

- Unload grain wagons on a level surface and ensure tractor brakes are in a locked position.
- Workers under 16 years old should never enter grain bins.
- If grain bins and silos have electrical lockout boxes, shut off power during any work inside the bins.
- Wear respiratory protection when working around areas with dust, mold, and silo gases.
- Spoiled grain produces mold spores that can cause irritation and/or allergic reactions.

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