

Rescue Procedures

- Shut off all grain-moving machinery. Stop the flow of grain!
- Contact the emergency rescue service or local fire department.
- If possible, ventilate the bin using the aeration or drying fan.
- Protect the rescue workers; be sure the power to the auger is locked out, and use safety lines and respiratory protection.
- Work in such a way that additional grain pressure is not exerted on the victim.
- Use retaining walls around the trapped person. Form retaining walls with plywood, sheet metal, or other structural materials to keep grain from flowing to the victim.
- Remove grain from around the victim using shovels, buckets or a vacuum.
- Cut at least 2 holes in bin sides to drain grain away from the victim if the person is completely submerged. Cut at least two V-shaped or U-shaped holes on opposite sides, or more holes equally spaced around the bin, using a cutting torch, metal-cutting power saw, or air chisel. The bin will collapse if it is not evenly unloaded.
- Apply care to the victim as soon as possible, providing breathing assistance, maintenance of body temperature, and emotional support. Plan ahead for victim removal procedures.
- Don't give up when conditions appear to be grim. People have survived submersion in grain for up to two hours; sometimes the victim can still breathe while buried in the grain. Never give up!

References:

1. Grain Bin Entrapment: What If It Happens To You?, Jim P. Allen, Extension Engineer and Ronald T. Noyes, P.E., Extension Agricultural Engineer, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma State University, 1994.
2. C.V. Schwab, I.J. Ross, L.R. Piercy, B.A. McKenzie (1985). Vertical Pull and Immersion Velocity of Mannequins Trapped in Enveloping Grain Flow. Transactions of the ASAE Vol. 28(6).

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