

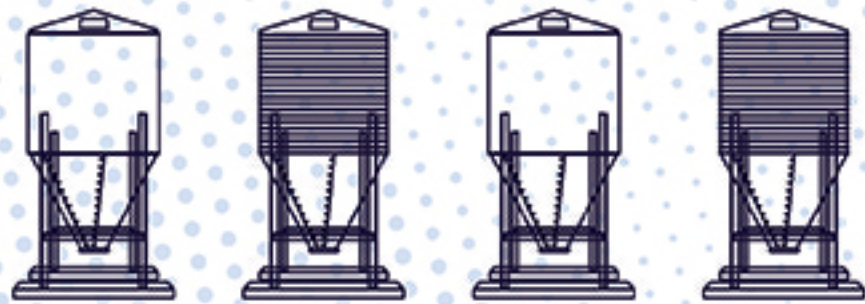
Asphyxiation

Agriculture-Related Fatalities in Canada*

(*2006-2015 This includes: asphyxiation (choking) due to grain, or soil. Does not include drownings in water.)



Advances in technology and production, has lead to larger volumes of grain being moved and stored, creating more hazards.



Over the 26 year period (from 1990 to 2015) the agriculture-related fatality rate due to asphyxiation had a statistically significant increase of 5.1% each year

86% of the agriculture-related deaths due to asphyxiation of grain/silage or soil were male. Farmers 50 to 59 years of age had the highest number of asphyxiation-related deaths.

The majority (83%) of the asphyxiation fatalities were due to grain/silage (30 fatalities). Another 5 fatalities (14%) were due to soil.



Asphyxiation by Cause

Other 3%

Soil 14%

Grain/Silage 83%

Of the 30 fatalities due to asphyxiation involving grain/silage, farmers 50 to 59 years of age had the highest number of 6 fatalities, but those 70 to 79 years of age had the highest rate. This was followed by children 10 to 14 years of age.

Of the 5 fatalities due to asphyxiation involving soil, 4 of the fatalities (80%) occurred while digging a trench and the other death involved repairs to a water well.



What Can We Do?

Assess the risks for entering all confined spaces on your farm, develop site-specific entry procedures, train workers, and ensure that entrants follow the procedures.

- Always lockout and tag out unloading equipment before entering a bin.
- Never work alone in a bin or any other confined space.
- Always wear a harness and lifeline. Do NOT "walk down the grain."
- Keep children out of grain bins, beds, and wagons at all times.
- Lock out the control circuit before entering a bin, whether or not grain is flowing. Be especially careful around automatic unloading equipment.
- If you have become trapped in a bin of flowing grain with nothing to hold onto but you are still able to walk, stay near the outside wall. Keep walking until the bin is empty or grain flow stops. If you are covered by flowing grain, cup your hands over your mouth, and take short breaths until help arrives.
- If another person becomes submerged in grain, immediately stop the flow of grain by powering down equipment and closing chutes. Assume they are alive and begin rescue operations immediately but never attempt a rescue by going into the grain bin yourself.