



### NGFA Safety Tips: Preparing Bins for Harvest

...Committed to promoting safety and health in the workplace...

#### Suggested Tasks Prior to and During Bin Entry

Incidents potentially can occur when a worker stands next to or underneath bridged or cluffed grain inside of a grain bin.

Therefore, as the fall harvest draws near, here are a few suggestions to prepare for a proper bin entry, if one is absolutely necessary, so as to prevent incidents such as entrapments from occurring.

**Remember: do not enter a grain storage unit unless absolutely necessary.**

If it is necessary to have employees enter a bin, silo or tank, commercial facilities are to follow the applicable practices, including the issuing of a **bin entry permit**, found in OSHA’s grain handling facilities standard [29 CFR 1910.272(g)], which took effect in 1988, to help minimize the risk.

Once it has been determined that a certain task must be completed inside the bin, then the facility can begin the pre-task planning and permitting process.

**Pre-task planning process:** A sit-down with employees to identify roles and responsibilities during the task and identify:

- equipment to be locked out
- forms of communication
- equipment needed for the work
- emergency action plan



Before the bin entry process, train employees and supervisors in the following roles and responsibilities: **Entry Supervisor; Attendant; and Entrant.**

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- The NGFA is committed to promoting safety and health in the workplace, and shares the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA’s) commitment to protecting employees.
- The NGFA’s extensive efforts to enhance safety include unprecedented research and education efforts launched in the early 1980s that helped lead to a dramatic reduction in the number of fire and explosion incidents in commercial grain-handling facilities.
- Each year, NGFA jointly sponsors regional safety seminars with affiliated state and regional grain and feed associations. The one-day conferences focus on keeping grain handling employees physically safe.

## Roles during bin entry process:

- **Entry Supervisor:** Leads the process for the entire duration of the entry. Responsibilities include:
  - Inspects the space to be entered; looks for bridged grain, grain beyond the natural angle of repose, hung up grain and anything else that may pose a physical threat to an entrant;
  - Ensures that the air monitor is calibrated and bump tested, and that the space is safe for human occupancy;
  - Leads the bin entry team through a lock out, tag out and verification process for all equipment that poses a risk of entanglement or engulfment to the entrant; and
  - Follows compliance criteria in the permit process and issues it to the approving authority.
  
- **Attendant:** Stays in direct communication with the entrant and has access to additional assistance through the entire duration of the entry. Responsibilities include:
  - Monitors the space and outside factors for any changes that could pose a hazard to the entrant and terminates the entry if unexpected hazards or abnormal conditions arise;
  - Controls entry into the space to authorized entrants only; and
  - Stays in direct communication with the entrant, if possible within eye site.
  
- **Entrant:** Works inside the space and communicates with the attendant. Responsibilities include:
  - Conducts the work needed inside the space;
  - Communicates with the attendant as often as necessary;
  - Wears appropriate harness and lifeline when entering bins containing grain or other commodities;
  - Maintains control and use of air monitor and other tools; and
  - Stays alert for changing conditions inside the space that could pose a hazard and immediately exits the space if necessary.

**Remember: Entering any grain storage unit is a process that requires planning and preparation.** Ensure that your bin entry program is up to date and all involved employees are trained properly to address potential hazards. Some of the key requirements are:

- [Every effort should be taken to avoid entry, if possible](#)
- [Turn off and lock out all potentially hazardous energy sources](#)
- [Never walk on or walk “down” grain to make it flow](#)
- [Never enter on or below bridged grain or hung up grain](#)
- [Test the bin’s atmosphere before entry](#)
- [The attendant must remain by the entrance during the entry process](#)
- [Ensure that rescue equipment is serviceable and available](#)
- [Follow the permit and all other safety precautions](#)

More safety information at [www.ngfa.org](http://www.ngfa.org)

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OSHA Fact Sheet

[CLICK HERE](#)

OSHA Grain Handling  
Standard 29 CFR  
1910.272(g)

[CLICK HERE](#)

OSHA LockOut/TagOut 29  
CFR1910.147

[CLICK HERE](#)

OSHA Emergency Action  
Plan 29 CFR 1910.38

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