

# **National Farm Safety & Health Week**



## **PSA Radio Announcements**

### **Grain entrapment can happen in seconds**

A common yet often tragic hazard during harvest is entrapment in grain. Grain bin accidents have continue to rise as other types of agricultural accidents have decreased.

Harvest time is primary revenue time on many farms, and is also one of the peak periods for farm injuries and deaths. It only takes seconds for people to become helplessly trapped in flowing grain. Automated equipment has made handling of grain easy and fast. A high-capacity conveyor can move enough grain to submerge a 6-foot-tall man in only 15 seconds. But, grain storage structures and handling equipment create hazardous work areas.

Although this cause of death is often overlooked by farm workers, last year was the deadliest in decades for grain bin accidents, according to a recent report from Purdue University. Researchers found 51 grain bin accidents in 2010, up from 38 in 2009. Of those accidents, 25 people died, five of them children under the age of 16.

Safety begins with proper rescue techniques. Better yet, steps should be taken to reduce the risk of injury or entrapment altogether. Safety precautions include turning off augers and other power equipment before entering bins; prohibiting walking on grain; providing a body harness with a lifeline for anyone going into a grain bin; and making sure there's someone outside the bin who can help if something goes wrong. Safety Counts - Your Community Depends On It!

This and other farm safety and health tips are available at the University of Missouri Extension Rural Safety and Health programmatic website at <http://agrability.missouri.edu/> or by calling 1.800.995.8503.

**Contact Information:**

Karen Funkenbusch

Rural Safety and Health Specialist

University of Missouri-Columbia

Division of Food Systems and Bioengineering

Department of Agricultural Systems Management Program

232 Agricultural Engineering Building

Columbia, Missouri 65211

573.882.2731 or 1.800.995.8503

[funkenbuschk@missouri.edu](mailto:funkenbuschk@missouri.edu)