

Engulfment Prevention Program Review



1. What prevention measures are you using? Are they effective? Are the following measures addressed in the engulfment prevention program?

- Issue a permit each time a worker enters a bin, certifying precautions have been implemented before workers enter the bin.
- De-energize (turn off) and disconnect, lockout and tagout, or block off all mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and pneumatic equipment that presents a danger, particularly grain-moving equipment.
- Communicate the facility's emergency action plan, and the roles and responsibilities for the worker(s).
- Prohibit walking down grain and similar practices where a worker walks on grain or otherwise attempts to make it flow.
- Prohibit entry onto or below a bridging condition, or where grain is built up on the side of the bin.
- Define company policy on when bin entry is acceptable and under what conditions bin entry is prohibited.
- Provide each worker entering a bin from a level at or above stored grain, or for each worker who will walk or stand on stored grain with a body harness and appropriately anchored lifeline or a boatswain's chair.
- Provide workers with rescue equipment, such as winch systems, rescue tubes, or other equipment that are specifically suited for rescue from the bin and able to fit through the bin access points.
- Station an observer who is equipped to call for help, provide assistance, and perform rescue operations outside the bin.
- Ensure that communications (visual, voice, or signal line) are maintained between the observer and the workers who entered the bin at all times.
- Test the air inside a bin for oxygen content and the presence of hazardous gases before entry.
- Provide and continue ventilation until any unsafe atmospheric conditions are eliminated.

Engulfment Prevention Program

Review, continued



- If toxicity or oxygen deficiency cannot be eliminated, workers must wear appropriate respiratory equipment.
- Provide training on roles and responsibilities for bin entrants and observers.
- Provide appropriate training to bin entrants and observers on hazards that are present or may be present, proper prevention or abatement measures for hazards, and personal protective measures that should be taken including correct use of PPE (personal protection equipment).

2. What needs improvement?

- Is your program meeting its objectives?
- Are you experiencing fatalities, injuries, or near misses?
- Are employees following company procedures for reporting near misses?
- Are employees aware of your company's protection procedures?

3. What training have you provided to your workers?

- Does training need revision or updating? If so, what training?
- Are employees receiving training on company policies and procedures, including administrative procedures for near miss and/or hazard reporting?
- Are employees receiving training on job hazards at least annually?
- Are employees receiving training when job responsibilities change?
- Are employees receiving annual training on emergency action plans?
- Is annual joint training conducted with the local fire/rescue squad?
- Is training documented?

4. What equipment have you provided to your workers?

- Is better equipment available?
- Is equipment in good condition (repair)?
- Is equipment inspected per manufacturers' instructions?
- Are there procedures to address how to take equipment out of service?
- Is there a replacement plan for equipment?