



Grain Handling Safety Coalition

[Training](#) [Young Workers](#) [Resources](#) [About Us](#) [Calendar](#)

Fast Facts

[Home](#) » [Fast Facts](#)

Quick and easy access to some of the most important information about handling grain safely.

FAST FACT # 1 – **Entrapment**

The majority of engulfments occur when unloading equipment is running. **ALWAYS LOTO** (Lock out/Tag out) unloading equipment and other energy sources before entering a bin!

FAST FACT # 2 – **Entanglement**

Entanglement in PTO's, augers, and other moving equipment is one of the leading causes of injury and death. **PROPER GUARDING** is a **MUST** to prevention of injuries. Don't remove guards, keep them in good repair, guard all moving parts.

FAST FACT # 3 – **Bin Entry**

Entering a grain bin or silo? Follow these rules!

1. LOTO!!!! All unloading equipment and other energy sources.
2. Check oxygen levels!
3. GET TRAINING BEFORE ENTERING A BIN!!
4. NEVER alone! ALWAYS have an observer to assist in an emergency.
5. Use a harness and lifeline! (A lifeline or rope can help to find you more quickly if you do become engulfed).

6. ALWAYS stay ABOVE the grain!
7. Entering a bin should be a last resort. Use alternatives first when possible.

FAST FACT # 4– **Out of Condition Grain**

Out of condition grain poses one of the greatest risks for entrapment/engulfment. Crusted grain signals DANGER! You should normally sink about 12" (ankle deep) when walking on corn. If you aren't sinking – GET OUT! There is a high potential to break through the crust and become entrapped or engulfed.

FAST FACT # 5– **Flowing Grain**

Flowing grain is the MOST DANGEROUS. It acts like quicksand. It continually flows to fill in holes. The flow creates a suction to pull you under.

FAST FACT # 6– **Speed Factor**

The faster grain flows the faster you become submerged. Grain only needs to remove the body volume of a person to completely cover you. The average body volume is 5-7 cubic feet. It can take as little as 5 seconds to become totally engulfed. An average 10 inch auger unloading at a rate of 4,086 bushels per hour will completely engulf a person in just under 60 seconds.

FAST FACT # 7– **Grain Weight (Knee Factor)**

The faster grain flows the faster you become submerged. Grain only needs to remove the body volume of a person to completely cover you. The average body volume is 5-7 cubic feet. It can take as little as 5 seconds to become totally engulfed. An average 10 inch auger unloading at a rate of 4,086 bushels per hour will completely engulf a person in just under 60 seconds.

Contact Information

Grain Handling Safety Coalition

3521 Hollis Drive
Springfield, IL 62711

Phone: 217-787-2417

Fax: 217-787-8671

Email: info@grainsafety.org

GHSC Participants

