

Grain Handling Safety & Health

Provided by the
Oklahoma
Department of Labor
Safety Pays
OSHA Consultation Division

Safety Pays!

The Safety Pays OSHA Consultation Division provides on-site safety and health assistance to employers in a wide variety of industries, including grain handling. Our services are:

- *Confidential*
- *Non-punative*
- *Easily tailored to meet your needs*
- **Free!**

Your company could qualify for a \$1,000 tax exemption simply by having a full service safety and/or health consultation.

Interested in lowering your Workers' Compensation costs? Our WCPR (Workers compensation premium reduction program) can help.

For more information, please call us at (405) 521-6140 or toll free at 1-888-269-5353. You can also visit us on our web site at www.labor.ok.gov.

Grain Handling Standards in Place to Protect Employees

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Grain Handling Facilities Standards apply to grain elevators, feed mills, flour mills, rice mills, dust pelletizing plants, dry corn mills, soybean flaking operations, and the dry grinding operations of soy cake. The grain handling industry is a high hazard industry where workers can be exposed to numerous and serious, life-threatening hazards.

Falls from grain storage structures are one of the leading causes of injuries and fatalities for those working in the grain handling industry.

The grain itself can pose a serious safety threat of engulfment or entrapment. Accumulations of grain dust pose an explosion hazard, so good housekeeping is essential.

Storage structures (bins, silos, and granaries), like all confined spaces, have significant hazards associated with them. Other respiratory hazards associated with grain storage structures include dusts, molds, fungal toxins (mycotoxin, aflatoxin,

endotoxin, etc) and residual fumigants.

Augers, sweeps, conveyers and elevators, must have exposed moving parts in order to do the job they are intended to do. Employers are required to follow proper lockout/tagout controls before clearing a blockage or performing maintenance on equipment.

Teenagers are often eager to get their first job, however, many occupations are simply not safe for young workers, and both state and federal child labor laws may prohibit grain handling facilities from hiring under age workers.

With a well developed and implemented safety and health management system, the risk of a work-related injury, illness or even fatality, can be greatly reduced. Businesses that make safety a value and involve employees in the safety and health management system are often more profitable and employees report a better quality of work-life.

**Safety
PAYS**

As a businessman with over twenty-five years of experience, I realize injuries do occur. The Safety Pays OSHA Consultation Program seeks to reduce those workplace injuries.

— Labor Commissioner Mark Costello

