



News & Notes

GRAIN BIN SAFETY WEEK

February 18th – 24th

According to researchers at Purdue University, more than 900 cases of grain engulfment have been reported with a fatality rate of over 60% in the past five decades.

Grain equipment can be hazardous and quite often, children and young workers are unaware of the potential hazards of being around grain equipment and storage. The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS) and the GHSE recommend:

- Young children should be kept out of farm worksites where grain is involved.
- Workers under the age of 18 should not be inside any storage structure, wagon or other type of equipment such as a grain truck, unless it is empty and proper lockout/tagout procedures have been followed.
- Youth should be assigned to work duties that are appropriate for their age and abilities. Refer to NCCRAHS Youth Agricultural Guidelines to help determine what is appropriate. (<http://www.marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs>)
- Youth should be trained to recognize hazards, necessary safety equipment and proper work strategies.

Chemical Hazard Communication

A written hazard communication program ensures that all employers receive the information they need to inform and train their employees properly and to design and implement employee protection programs. It also provides necessary hazard information to employees so they can participate in, and support, the protective measures in place at their workplaces.

Employers therefore must develop, implement and maintain at the workplace a written, comprehensive hazard communication program that includes provisions for container labeling, collection and availability of safety data sheets (SDS), and an employee training program. It also must contain a list of the hazardous chemicals, the means the employer will use to inform employees of the hazards of non-routine tasks (for example, the cleaning of feed mixers), and the hazards associated with chemicals in unlabeled pipes. If the workplace has multiple employers onsite (for example, a construction site), the rule requires these employers to ensure that information regarding hazards and protective measures be made available to the other employers onsite, where appropriate. In addition, all covered employers must have a written hazard communication program to get hazard information to their employees through labels on containers, SDSs, and training.

The written program does not have to be lengthy or complicated, and some employers may be able to rely on existing hazard communication programs to comply with the above requirements. The written program must be available to employees, their designated representatives, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Why Safety Data Sheets Are Needed

The SDS is a detailed information bulletin prepared by the manufacturer or importer of a chemical that describes the physical and chemical properties, physical and health hazards, routes of exposure, precautions for safe handling and use, emergency and first-aid procedures, and control measures.

Chemical manufacturers and importers must develop an SDS for each hazardous chemical they produce or import, and must provide the SDS automatically at the time of the initial shipment of a hazardous chemical to a downstream distributor or user. Distributors also must ensure that downstream employers are similarly provided an SDS.

Each SDS must be in English and include information regarding the specific chemical identity of the hazardous chemical(s) involved and the common names. In addition, information must be provided on the physical and chemical characteristics of the hazardous chemical; known acute and chronic health effects and related health information; exposure limits; whether the chemical is a carcinogen by NTP, IARC, or OSHA; precautionary measures; emergency and first-aid procedures; and the identification (name, address, and telephone number) of the organization responsible for preparing the sheet.

NOMINATE YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTEST

For the fifth consecutive year, Nationwide is collaborating with industry leaders and agricultural professionals to host the *Nominate Your Fire Department Contest* as part of grain bin safety week. The contest runs from January 1st through April 30th and awards grain rescue tubes and specialized hands-on training for first responders to save lives when someone becomes entrapped in grain storage structures. The contest has awarded rescue tubes to 48 fire departments across 18 states.

Nominate your fire department:

- Online: www.nationwide.com/grain-bin-safety-week
- Email: agcontest@nicc.edu
- Mail:
NECAS Grain Bin Safety Ag

Contest

8342 NICC Dr.
Peosta, IA 52068

To enter, describe how the fire department or emergency rescue team and community would benefit from receiving grain entrapment training and a rescue tube, and how the tube and training could be shared with nearby departments.

Please include:

- Your name
- Occupation
- Phone number
- Mailing address
- Email address
- Name, address and phone number of the fire department or rescue team nomination

Let's work together to prevent grain bin accidents!

(Why Safety Data Sheets are Needed: continued from page 1)

Copies of the SDS for hazardous chemicals in each worksite are to be readily accessible to employees in that area. As a source of detailed information on hazards, they must be readily available to workers during each work shift.

Employers must prepare a list of all hazardous chemicals in the workplace. When the list is complete, it should be checked against the collected SDSs that the employer has been sent.

If there are hazardous chemicals used for which no SDS has been received, the employer must contact the supplier, manufacturer, or importer to obtain the missing SDS. A record of the contact must be maintained.

Training to Protect Workers

Employers must establish a training and information program for employees who are exposed to hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of initial assignment and whenever a new hazard is introduced into their work area.

At a minimum, the discussion topics must include the following:

- The hazard communication standard and its requirements.
- The components of the hazard communication program in the employees' workplaces.
- Operations in work areas where hazardous chemicals are present.
- Where the employer will keep the written hazard evaluation procedures, communications program, lists of hazardous chemicals, and the required SDS forms.

The employee training plan must consist of the following elements:

- How the hazard communication program is implemented in that workplace, how to read and interpret information on labels and the SDS, and how employees can obtain and use the available hazard information.
- The hazards of the chemicals in the work area. (The hazards may be discussed by individual chemical or by hazard categories such as flammability.)
- Measures employees can take to protect themselves from the hazards.
- Specific procedures put into effect by the employer to provide protection such as engineering controls, work practices, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Methods and observations—such as visual appearance or smell—workers can use to detect the presence of a hazardous chemical to which they may be exposed.



Reference:

Chemical Hazard Communication

U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSHA 3084