

G.E.P Initiative

The attendees at the March 23 & 24, 2011 Grain Entrapment Prevention Safety Symposium agree and support the following statements and initiatives:

Stake-Holders involved in the initiative:

- Commercial Grain Handlers
- Steel Bin Manufacturing
- Insurance Group
- Land Great Universities
- Emergency Response Groups
- Safety Consulting Groups

Areas of Emphasis:

- NGFA / OSHA -- Best Management Practices
 - Steel Bin Mfg Council -- “Consensus Standards” for ASABE / ANSI
 - Insurance Groups -- Real threats, Risk assessments, Areas of Exposure
 - Fire Cheifs -- Emergency preparedness & NFPA
1. The grain handling industry must make greater efforts to dramatically reduce the number of workplace injuries and fatalities in grain handling facilities.
 2. **A.** Create attainable, sustainable and measurable best management practices for grain handling facilities.
B. Increase the utilization of new design, construction and safety methods in all grain handling facilities.
 3. All grain handling companies must offer at a minimum, annual “hands-on” training to:
 - a. Entrants
 - b. Attendants
 - c. Emergency Response Personnel
 4. Every grain company must adopt a bin entry program that specifies the use of a Bin Entry Kit to assure that life line slack is managed and that the safety harness is secured properly.
 5. Grain Journal will establish and maintain a new website (www.grainentrapmentprevention.com) to facilitate more effective communication between all interested parties within the grain handling industry. In what other ways can Grain Journal be utilized?
 6. The grain handling industry must work together to embrace this set of “Consensus Standards” and design parameters developed by a broad coalition within the grain industry itself. This process should not be driven by OSHA. We need to focus our limited resources on the specific area and work processes that are actually responsible for the majority of our injuries and deaths. We need to identify and adapt practical and cost effective solutions.

G.E.P Initiative

By March 15, 2012 we will strive to accomplish the following:

STANDARDIZE TERMS:

1. Identify key terms that need to be defined and standardized such as:
 - a. Fall Restraint vs. Fall Protection
 - b. Zero Entry Mentality
 - c. Bin Entry Kits
 - d. Convection Currents
 - e. Entrapment
 - f. Engulfment
 - g. _____
 - h. _____
2. Establish a "Distance Learning Course" on this topic for use by GEAPS' members at K.S.U. (Dr. Carol Jones and Wayne Bauer will coordinate the development of this course with GEAPS and K.S.U.)
3. Release two new training videos, which will be developed by Oklahoma Cherokee Strip Team and the Safety and Technical Rescue Association (SATRA)
4. Create a better understanding of the "STATS" and what is really happening within the ag sector. We need to pursue real threats within the ag sector, not perceived threats by OSHA (We will seek clearer direction in this area by groups like: Nationwide Agribusiness, Ag Berkley, Triangle Insurance and Purdue University). Determine the data points that need to be collected. Collection of poor data will only provide poor information of data.
5. Encourage the Grain Bin Manufacturing Council to offer a 6-8 hour training class to their distributors, contractors and sales groups. (Awareness Level Training)
6. Develop a consensus standard through the ASABE standards process defining minimum bin entry procedures and structure design parameters. Pursue this standard to be made an ANSI standard.
7. Hold a series of 8-10 hour "Train the Trainer" courses. Purpose:
 - a. Standardize terms
 - b. Review skill sets and techniques being taught
 - c. SOP for establishing county rescue teams

Locations and Coordinators:

 - > Michigan – Bill Harp with SATRA
 - > Oklahoma – Carol Jones with OSU
 - > Indiana – Bill Fields with Purdue University
 - > Iowa – Jerry Eslick with P.R.I.
8. Provide further testing of Cofferdams @ OSU. Ask each company involved to provide their Cofferdam to OSU (Stillwater, OK) for further testing for the period of (Sept. 2011 – Dec 15, 2011)

G.E.P Initiative

By September 15, 2013 we will strive to accomplish the following:

1. Identify better design parameters in future grain handling facilities. (Harmon Towne and Dr. Carol Jones will coordinate this process with ASABE and the Steel Bin Mfg. Council) Dan Wambeke and Jeff Decker are the contacts within the Steel Bin Mfg. Council. Harmon, Carol, Dan and Jeff will clarify the specific issues and relevant standards that should be considered.
2. The entire ag industry should make a greater effort to form joint County Emergency Response Teams that are equipped and trained to respond in a timely manner to ag related emergencies. (These teams may consist of 8-12 people from private industry and local fire departments, which practice together a minimum of 1-2 times per year. The frequency of their drills and practices will determine their actual level of proficiency.

Please consider joining us at these next meetings, conference and shows:

April 6-8, 2011: 15th Great Lakes Regional Conference in Angola, IN

June 21-23, 2011: Bin Entry & Tech Rescue (BE/TR) Training in Frankenmuth, MI

July 27-28, 2011: Safety Seminar sponsored by Grain Journal and NGFA in KSC

> 8am – July 27 : Executive Committee Meeting

> 7pm – July 27 : Distance Learning Course

August 30-September 1, 2012: Farm Progress Show

February 2012: Louisville Farm Show

March 7, 2012: Meeting following GEAPS Exchange in Minneapolis