



PARTNERING WITH TOWNSHIPS

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

RISK REMINDER

Farm & Harvest Season Safety

It is a well-known fact that the agriculture and transportation industries are two of the most hazardous occupations there are. When combined, the dangers are greatly compounded. They may include weather changes that might be very cool and damp making both footing and driving slippery. Other dangers involve slow moving vehicles (farm machinery) that may not be seen while going over a hill or rounding a curve. They also include school busses and children that have not been present for a while after being off for the summer.

Other major hazards include the type of cargo being transported this time of year. The process of harvesting and hauling grain, which many members do, lead to many injuries and fatalities every year. With drivers usually loading on site (side of roadway), loading is inherently more dangerous because of constant farm machinery movement, other semis in the area, or other traffic in general. Grain dust poses a great threat due to it being a hazardous inhalant. Add to this the serious hazard of it being a flammable / combustible source, smoking or other sources of ignition around grain bins may be very dangerous. Extra caution should be taken while loading due to the possibility of engulfment in the grain itself. Entrapment or burial in either the trailer or bin can happen during loading from combine or storage in the “blink of an eye”. This may crush and/or suffocate any victim that this happens to.

Due to these hazards, certain precautions should be taken to avoid injury or fatalities:

1. Never enter a confined area (Trailer or Bin) while loading or unloading.
2. Always be aware that other vehicles and farm machinery are operating very close to your vehicle.
3. Weather, farmstead terrain, and atmospheric conditions present many hazards and risks to workers. Be aware and prepared for changes that can occur in a short period of time. Protective clothing, hearing & vision protection should be mandatory.
4. When transporting grain, be aware that “the load” can shift very easily. Load shifting may lead to a “Tip over” of the vehicle.
5. While transporting grain, be extremely aware of slow moving vehicles (farm equipment), busses, other vehicles, wet slick spots, and wildlife (deer) at this time of year.

Questions:

1. **True or False:** Once grain has been loaded on the trailer, it will not shift in transit.
2. **True or False:** It is “OK” to get in the trailer to push out jammed up grain with your foot.
3. **True or False:** There is no problem of an explosion from grain dust due to smoking.

For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at (800) 252-5059, ext. 1387 or 1384.

CLAIM REPORTING HOTLINE (844) 562-2720 | Available 24/7