



Rural Health and Safety of Eastern Iowa is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and improve the health and safety of rural families living in Eastern Iowa.

Tax-deductible contributions to help fund these efforts can be sent to:

RHS of Eastern Iowa  
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Make checks payable to  
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## Grain bin rescue is focus of workshop for Eastern Iowa fire and rescue units

An evening workshop for Eastern Iowa fire and rescue departments focused on rescuing people trapped in stored grain will be held Sept. 7 at the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Iowa City.

The workshop is sponsored by Rural Health and Safety of Eastern Iowa and the National Education Center for Ag Safety in Peosta. It will begin at 6 p.m.

Death and injury due to entrapment in grain stored on farms is on the rise. A Purdue University study, released earlier this year, reported 38 entrapments nationwide, resulting in 17 deaths in 2014. Four of those deaths occurred in Iowa.

Entrapments typically happen when a farm worker enters a grain bin or silo to break up clumps of out-of-condition grain during loading or unloading, said Bill Field, Purdue professor of agricultural safety and health.

The Sept. 7 workshop will teach best practices for entering a grain bin, including a discussion of why farmers enter a bin and how they get trapped, said Dan Neenan, director of NECAS safety, transportation and EMS. Topics covered include:

- Lock-out, tag-out of electricity to the bin
- Roping and rigging
- Harnesses
- Air-quality sampling
- Alternatives to entering a bin

The workshop will conclude with a demonstration of the use of a grain-rescue tube to extract people trapped in stored grain and the proper procedures for cutting into a grain bin when performing a rescue.

There is no charge to attend the workshop, however pre-registration is requested. To register, contact Kevin Blind, development and communications director for Rural Health and Safety of Eastern Iowa., phone 319-540-4954, or by email at [kevin.blind@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.blind@gmail.com).

An afternoon session for farm families to teach best practices for safely working with stored grain, will also be held at the fairgrounds on that day.

Rural Health and Safety of Eastern Iowa is a non-profit organization working in partnership with Mercy of Iowa City to promote agricultural health and safety in Cedar, Iowa, Louisa, Muscatine, Washington and Johnson counties.