

SAFE WORK

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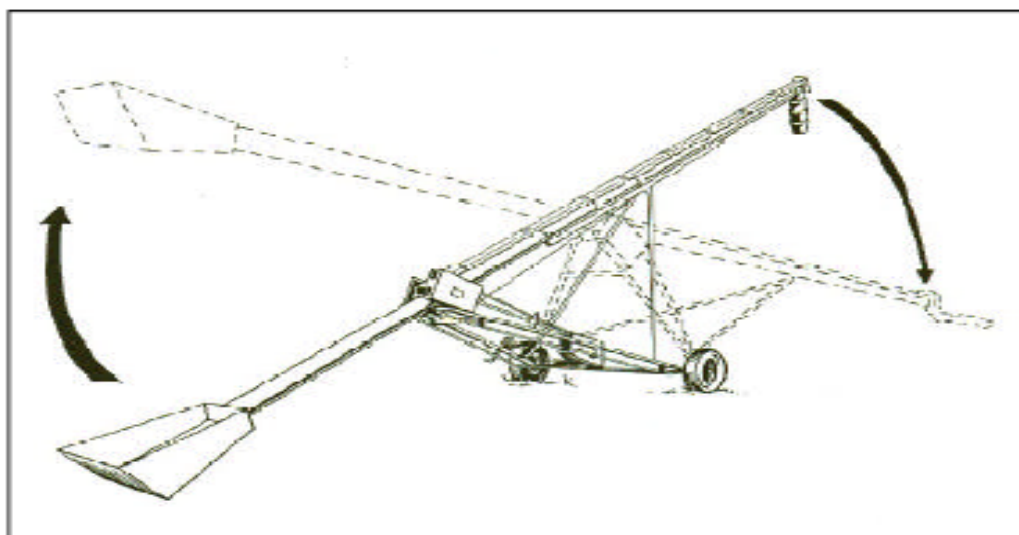
SPOT THE HAZARD
ASSESS THE RISK
FIND A SAFER WAY
EVERYDAY

No. 209
May 2010

Grain Augers

Potential Hazards

Grain augers are one of the most dangerous pieces of farm machinery. There are 4 major hazard areas associated with augers which may result in serious injury or death.



- **Entanglement in the flight/drive** – unguarded intakes will shear anything, including body parts if they are placed between the flight and tube end. Rotating shafts and pulleys will wrap any loose material including clothing that may come in contact with it.
- **Overhead power line contact** – Contact with overhead power lines can result in electrocution and fire.
- **Instability** – grain augers are most stable in their lowered position. When an auger is raised, its center of gravity is raised, increasing the possibility of the intake end flipping up into the air and/or the auger tipping over.
- **Hoisting mechanism failure** – Augers are very heavy and must be raised and lowered mechanically. Failure of the hoisting mechanism can cause the auger to collapse, possibly crushing anyone who may be underneath or near the auger.

How to Control the Hazards

Grain auger hazards can be controlled with proper **guarding** and by developing and using **safe work procedures**. Everyone who uses or works near grain augers must understand the hazards and follow the established safe work procedures.

Guards

Augers must be fitted with guards that prevent clothing and people from coming in contact with any moving parts. Guards must be secured and regularly maintained.

(see over)

Workplace Safety and Health Division Contact Information:

Winnipeg: (204) 945-3446
Toll-Free: 1-866-888-8186 (Manitoba only)
24-Hour Emergency Line: (204) 945-0581

Publications/resources available at: www.safemanitoba.com

Safe Work Procedures

Safe work procedures specific to your equipment and operation should include the following points:

- Prior to using the auger, ensure that all moving parts are adequately guarded to prevent entanglement of clothing, body parts or other materials. Also check to ensure that all hoisting and drive components are secure and not worn.
- Immediately service or repair missing or damaged parts.
- When working in the vicinity of overhead power lines, ensure that the auger (or any other equipment including hoisted truck boxes) remains more than three meters away from the overhead line. If you must work within 3 meters of a power line with elevated equipment, you must contact Manitoba Hydro ahead of time (see *SAFE Work Bulletin 106 – Working Near Power Lines* for more information).
- Transport the grain auger in its fully lowered position only. This reduces the risk of the auger tipping over and also prevents contact with power lines. Move the auger only enough to clear the bin before lowering it.
- Never move a grain auger while it is in operation.
- Never allow anyone to stand underneath a grain auger.
- Always operate augers in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications.

Reference to legal requirements under workplace safety and health legislation:

- Machines, Tools, and Robots: Manitoba Regulation 217/2006 Part 16
- Work in the Vicinity of Overhead Electrical Lines: Manitoba Regulation 217/2006 Part 25

Additional workplace safety and health information available at: www.safemanitoba.com