



DOSH Hazard Awareness eBulletin

#6HB2010

November 10, 2010

Attention: *Businesses owners, managers, supervisors, and employees using sweep augers to empty grain bins:*

Augers are unforgiving. Once they have you they don't let go!

Recently 2 employees had lower limbs amputated by **floor** augers that were left uncovered:

- One employee who was moving a sweep auger inside a grain bin lost his foot when he stepped through a floor opening onto a rotating auger. (see photo 1)
- Another employee lost his entire lower leg when his foot slid sideways through a vertical opening into a rotating floor auger located inside an access tunnel between grain bins. (see photo 2)

Injuries like these are preventable. Machine safeguarding and employee training on lock-out/tag-out procedures and other safe work practices are essential to keeping safe during daily, routine tasks.

Use these resources to help find and fix auger hazards in your workplace:

- [Floor auger fatality](#) (Iowa FACE program)
- [Machine Guarding](#) L&I resources
- [Confined Spaces](#) L&I resources
- [Lockout/Tagout](#) L&I resources
- [Grain Handling Facilities](#) L&I resources
- OSHA Interpretation Letter: [September 29, 2008](#)
- [Safety with Grain Augers](#) (training fact sheet from North Dakota State University)
- [Grain Auger Safety](#) (Texas Dept. of Insurance)
- [Grain and Silage Handling](#) (Chapter 3: Storage, a NIOSH publication)

Please share this bulletin with others in your industry and safety networks.

This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees to potential hazards associated with work activities. This is not a rule and creates no new legal obligations. The information provided includes suggested guidance on how to avoid workplace injuries. DOSH recommends you also check the related rules for additional requirements.

Get another copy of this document and find other resources for preventing workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses on our web site: www.LNI.wa.gov/safety-health/



1: Keep safety covers on floor auger openings and use appropriate safety guards on sweep augers ([WAC 296-307-29005](#)).



2. Bad idea. You can slip and slide right into the exposed shear points on this floor auger.