

LESSON 14 – CASE STUDIES

14.1 Teen successfully rescued from grain bin

Gearing Up Daily News

Morris - Thirteen-year-old Clarence Jones looked death in the face this past Wednesday morning and survived. Jones was playing hide and seek with his brothers on their family farm when he decided to hide inside an 8,000 buhel grain bin. While inside, an employee of Elmer's Trucking arrived to fill a semi with corn being stored in the bin. Assuming no one was in the bin, Paul Stevens, the truck driver, engaged the unloading auger and began filling the truck.

When Stevens heard Jones' cries for help he immediately shut off the auger and climbed the bin ladder to find Jones buried up to his chin in corn. He climbed back down and used his truck radio to call the Otsego County Emergency Dispatcher. Rescue and fire units from Morris, Lakeview, Wooster, and Hyde Park responded to the scene.

Using metal cutting power saws, openings were cut around the base of the bin to allow the grain to drain from the bin. One rescue worker entered the bin and provided Jones with an oxygen mask and portable tank of oxygen. Chief Ingalls of the Morris Fire Department estimated that rescuers had to manually move over 2000 bushels of grain away from the base of the bin. Crews worked in shifts and a small skid steer loader was brought to the scene to assist.

It took over 2 hours from the time that first responders arrived at the scene to free Jones from the grain. He was removed through a door on the bottom of the bin and transported to St. Luke's for observation. One fireman was treated at the scene for heat exhaustion.

According to Dennis Bean, Extension Safety Specialist, this was the third case of grain bin entrapment in the state since the beginning of the year. He noted that most people, especially children, are not aware of how fast a person can become engulfed in flowing grain. Once the person is buried above his or her knees, it is almost impossible to escape on their own.

14.2 Heat blamed in farmer's death

Gearing Up Daily News

Lafayette – Robert King, a 15-year-old farm worker of 12456 W. County Line Road, died at 9:00 p.m. Saturday in Lafayette Memorial Hospital after an apparent heat stroke Friday while baling hay. King was baling hay with his father Martin King when he began to suffer from heat exhaustion.

King continued to work even through his discomfort until he suffered from the heat induced stroke.

Martin King rushed to his son's aid but was unprepared as to how to care for his ailing son. "I didn't know what to do," King said, "I rushed over to him and tried to comfort him." I had never seen anyone experiencing heat stroke before. "I felt completely helpless".

Martin then proceeded to call for help using his cellular phone. Lafayette Fire and Rescue rushed to the scene to transport King to the hospital where he died.

"The heat takes too many lives each year. People just don't realize the danger they face when they work in this intense heat," stated Dr. Norman Ricketts of Lafayette Memorial Hospital. "If you are working out in the field, take plenty of fluids and rest in a shady area often. Try not to exert yourself."



14.3 Fire consumes barn in Lakeville

Gearing Up Daily News

Lakeville - No one was injured in a three-alarm fire Monday in Lakeville.

The blaze was reported at 6:13 p.m. to the Lakeville Police Department. Firefighters from Lakeville and Farmington arrived on the scene with 12 vehicles, including two tanker trucks from Farmington.

“There was no water at the scene, so we had to ship it there with the tankers from Lakeville and Farmington,” said Lakeville Fire Marshal, Jim Nichols.

The fire was in a large barn at 19362 Cedar Ave. The barn, according to Nichols, was being used as a stable for horses and storage space for landscaping equipment.

“The fire was visible outside of the building with flames about 10 to 15 feet above the roof of the barn,” said Nichols.

According to Nichols, the owner had gasoline cans, hay and a Bobcat earth-mover in the barn. “These things all added to the blaze and helped it spread,” said Nichols. An early damage estimate at this time is approximately \$150,000.

“The building is ‘L’ shaped, and our men were able to prevent the fire from going to the long side of the ‘L.’”

Nichols said there were no injuries, and the cause of the fire was an accident on the owner’s behalf. “The owner was smoking a cigarette near some dry hay; his ashes caused a fire that he was unable to put out. His fire extinguisher was not properly charged. By the time he came back with another, the fire was out of his control,” stated Nichols. The nearest phone was over half a mile away which made contacting emergency personnel difficult.

He said the fire crew was at the scene for approximately four hours and returned to their station at 10:30 p.m.

14.4 Man injured by farm machinery

Gearing Up Daily News

Haven – A rural Haven man was injured Tuesday afternoon when his left foot was caught in a piece of farm equipment, a spokesperson for Parkview Memorial Hospital reported.

At about 4:30 p.m. John Johnston’s left leg became trapped in an auger at Howard’s Agri- Service, 4568 County Road 29, Haven.

Johnston was reported in fair condition this morning at Parkview Memorial Hospital with a crushed left foot, reported a spokes person for the hospital.

Haven firefighters responded to the accident, and later dispatched the Lifeline helicopter ambulance from Parkview.

14.5 Broken leg, pelvis kept Carroll man in soybean field overnight

Gearing Up Daily News

Jasper - Twelve hours after a tractor rolled over onto his leg and foot, Martin Lawrence was able to free himself and go for assistance.

Lawrence, who works for Harris Owen at his farming operation, was mowing grass along the edge of a soybean field when the lawn mower became stuck. He got a second tractor to pull out the lawn mower, and that’s when the trouble began.

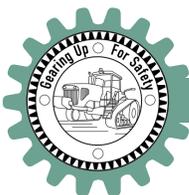
“The tractor died when I was going up a steep embankment. I hit the brake, and it threw me off and then it rolled back on my foot and my leg. I was stuck,” he said from his bed at the University hospital.

The accident happened around 8:30 p.m. EDT Monday, but he was not found until 9:09 a.m.

EDT Tuesday. The soybean field is located on a gravel road off U.S. 252 near the Four Mile Bridge.

“I dug one of my feet out by about 12:00 midnight and I got the other foot out by 3:00 a.m. but I couldn’t walk,” he said. Lawrence has a broken leg, fractured pelvis and multiple cuts and bruises on his feet.

His frustration mounted when Harris Owen and another worker came looking for him early in the morning and did not see him lying next to the tractor. The tractor was going uphill, and as it began rolling backward, it made a sharp turn into the soybean field. There was just enough space between the tractor and the road that Lawrence could not be seen.



“I finally got enough strength to get up, and the second time they saw me,” he said. Lawrence said he knew someone would come looking for him because he had a truck, lawn mower, and tractor in the field.

A StatCare helicopter ambulance was immediately dispatched to the scene and had to land on U.S. 42 near the gravel road next to the soybean field. As emergency officials were treating Lawrence, all air traffic was grounded because it was too foggy at Clark County Memorial Hospital, and the life-saving helicopter pilot was told not to lift off.

The pilot disregarded the order and took his patient to the hospital anyway.

A native of Illinois, Lawrence came to Clark County with the tobacco market. He had worked with the market in Virginia and made regular trips to Carrollton during burley season.

It appears he will be in the hospital for a while as doctors prepare to put a brace and pin in his broken leg and a brace on his fractured pelvis. If that doesn't work, he said the doctors may operate next week.

“I just thank God I'm alive,” Lawrence said.

14.6 Triple electrocution on farm in Georgia

Gearing Up Daily News

Frankfort – On October 10 at approximately 8:00 a.m. two farm workers and the farmer owner were moving a portable grain auger when it contacted a 7200 volt power line. All three workers were electrocuted. The auger is approximately 50 feet long, has inflatable-type car tires, and weighs several hundred pounds. The auger can be raised or lowered by a hand crank that is attached to a steel cable pulley system. Officials of the Georgia Department of Human Resources notified the Georgia Department of Labor of these fatalities and requested technical assistance.

The sheriff requested that "no investigation" of the site be conducted for reasons that were not explained. The manager of the local power company was interviewed. The sheriff and the manager of the power company provided minimal information. The names of the victims had not been released pending notification of relatives.

The farm (less than 200 acres) is a small family operation, employing two or three extra workers at harvest time. The owner of the farm (a 61-year-old male) usually worked the farm with his son. At the time of the accident two extra workers (a 21-year-old male and a 49-year-old male) were hired on a part-time basis. The farm had no written safety policy.

14.7 Farm worker dies from heat stroke – North Carolina

Gearing Up Daily News

Battleground – A 44-year-old Hispanic worker, Jose Miguel, died after succumbing to heat stroke while working in a tobacco field on a farm in Pitt County. The victim started work at 7 a.m., had a short break between 9 and 10 a.m. that included soda and crackers, and ate lunch between noon and 1 p.m.

The weather was hot and humid, between 100 and 110. He had been working in a tobacco field when around 3 p.m. he complained to the crew leader that he was not feeling well. The victim drank some water and was driven back to the workers' housing and left alone to rest. At approximately 3:45 p.m. the victim was found unconscious on the steps of the residence. Emergency medical service (EMS) personnel were immediately called and responded within five minutes. The victim was transported to the hospital where his core body temperature was recorded at 108° F and he was pronounced dead. The North Carolina Department of Labor had recently released a bulletin warning of the dangers of heat stress.

