

## **Grain Handling and Agricultural Confined Space Hazards in California**

Cal/OSHA joins Federal OSHA in implementing the President's proclamation of National Farm Safety and Health Week, September 15 through 21, 2013, by reminding all California agricultural employers of the hazards of confined spaces, not only from grain handling operations, but also from all other potential confined spaces in their workplaces.

The practice of grain handling in California presents many of the same hazards highlighted in the Federal OSHA grain bin safety campaign, which was initiated in 2011 after multiple suffocation fatalities at grain handling facilities across the country. Please refer to Federal OSHA's [safety and health information on grain handling facilities](#) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's [publication on safe grain and silage handling](#) for more information.



California has been fortunate in that its experience has not mirrored the nation's history regarding confined space injuries and fatalities at grain handling facilities. Nonetheless, Cal/OSHA initiated a continuing Special Emphasis Program on Confined Spaces in January 2012 which featured educational outreach to employers in English and Spanish, and increased enforcement in general industry, construction and agriculture.

Cal/OSHA Consultation offers several on-line resources for employers and workers, including:

- [Confined Spaces Hazard Alert](#)
- [Confined spaces training materials](#)
- [Confined Space Hazard and Prevention booklet](#)

The text of the [Title 8 Grain Handling Standard for California](#) is also available online.