# A screen shot of a computer  Description automatically generatedconfined space in grain bins and silos

Entry into feed storage areas such as grain bins and silos may be necessary for a variety of reasons such as maintenance, inspection, cleaning, etc. Entry into a space that was not designated or intended for regular work, has limited or restricted means of entry and exit, or that contains physical hazards is considered a confined space.

*Possible feed storage facility confined space hazards:*

* Engulfment from grain, dirt, liquids etc.
* Explosions from combustible dust created
* Configuration of the space such as sloping walls and floors
* Entanglement in moving parts such as shafts, couplings, gears etc.
* Energy hazards such as heat, electricity, or stored (lockout tagout is required for all energy sources)
* Noise which can be amplified in a confined space
* Thermal conditions such as extreme heat or cold

*Precautions to take when entering a confined space:*

* Turn off and lock out all powered equipment
* Employees should never walk on grain to loosen it
* Employees should never walk under bridging condition
* Never walk where there is a build-up of grain products on the side that could fall and bury someone
* Employees entering the space should have on a body harness with a lifeline
* An observer should be stationed outside the bin/an entry permit should be issued
* Air should be tested in the bin prior to entry
* If poor atmosphere is detected necessary ventilation/personal protective equipment should be used
* Minimize ignition sources through controlling hot work, electrical wiring, and design
* Ensure all moving parts are properly guarded

Know the company policies and procedures related to confined space and follow them. It could save a life.