

Gallatin Co Grain Bin Rescue Training - Last updated 1:15 am CT August 01, 2010.



GALLATIN COUNTY-- It doesn't take long for someone trapped in a grain bin to suffocate to death. On Saturday first responders from three area counties are training to rescue someone from a grain bin. It's training that could mean the difference between life and death.

News 3's Rachel Gartner was there for the training.

It's a full-blown, hands-on training event for rescue crews from Gallatin, Saline and White counties. And in region known for farming...

"It's just a necessity I think."

Carla Noel organized the event, not only because she's from a farming family...

"We've had several accidents in the county before, and I just thought it was something good to have."

And when the bin is finally full, instructor George Lovell with the Safety and Technical rescue team gets everyone strapped in.

"It really doesn't hit home until you actually put somebody in some grain and get them swallowed down to their chest. It makes them realize that the pressure that is there, and it gets on them, how quickly it can happen to each person."

To show just how quick it can happen, I volunteered to get inside, and Lovell let me take my camera. It only took seconds for the grain to swallow make its way up to my waist. Then, Lovell led the team in the rescue.

Saline and Gallatin county farm bureau manager David Meeker says, he's glad responders are getting this training, without it the end result is hard to imagine.

"Suffocation, you stop and think about it, you know you're going. Its like drowning, same aspect, you're only just drowning in grain."

Ed Dennison with the Ridgeway fire department also went in. He agrees, its a frightening concept.

"Huh, I'd hate to think about it. I wouldn't want to be in that situation. It would be hard to breath- I know that."

So, in an area known for agriculture, the exercise could save lives...

"A lot of grain bins; a person needs to know it."

More than 25 area firefighters turned out for the training. Those who send in the information can receive a certificate for their participation.

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