



RES-Q tube saves lives: CGB buys several tubes for safety of employees, others.

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Aug. 01--OQUAWKA, Ill. -- In an industry where safety is a major concern, Consolidated Grain and Barge Co. has gone the extra mile to ensure the well-fare of their employees and farm residents near one of their 70 facilities. CGB has spent \$50,000 on training and RES-Q tubes, which are designed to save a person who gets sucked down into the grain inside a bin. With river terminals along the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio rivers, CGB's Oquawka facility was one location to receive a RES-Q tube.

"We spend a tremendous amount of time and effort making sure our employees are safe and not put into situations where they can become a victim of suffocation due to collapsed grain. Unfortunately, accidents happen, and we have made this investment to make sure we can rescue individuals should something happen," said Rick White, CGB regional operations manager based out of Naples, Ill. "We have made the investment, but we hope we never have to use it."

The RES-Q tube, manufactured by GSI Group, comes in four lightweight aluminum sections and is put together inside the bin. It looks like a long barrel with both ends open when it is assembled. The tube is pushed down through the grain around the person, which relieves the pressure off their body and prevents more grain from falling down against him. Once the tube is in place, rescue personnel remove the grain around the person until they can free him.

"The pressure of the grain is an unknown killer," said White.

"People have tried things in the past," said White, citing the use of plywood around a potential victim.

CGB bought the RES-Q tubes for additional safety for their employees, but also are making them available to fire departments and rescue squads near their terminals.

"We hope that our investment can be used to rescue other members of our community should the need arise," White said. "We think that just makes good sense for us to make it available should someone need it."

In an emergency, White said the company would be willing to run the RES-Q tube out to the site of a grain bin accident.

The Safety and Technical Rescue Association has conducted on-site training sessions for CGB at several of their locations. A session is planned for Naples, located west of Springfield in Scott County, for Aug. 11. Another training session is planned at the company's Dixon, Ill., facility for Aug. 13. Fire departments or emergency personnel interested in attending one of the training sessions can contact White at (217) 754-3331 to reserve space.

A training session includes a small grain bin, where a victim is put into a hazardous situation. The RES-Q tube is demonstrated and for those outside the bin, they can watch a video of the process on a television on the training site.

White said you don't need a license in order to use the RES-Q tube, and it is an easy tool to work with in an emergency.

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