

# Bin Rescue Training

GEAPS TO OFFER THREE-DAY COURSES STARTING JUNE 28-30 IN FRANKENMUTH, MI



*In-depth information on grain bin rescue equipment and extraction techniques will be the focus of two three-day workshops planned by GEAPS.*

The Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS) has approved a plan that will provide two three-day grain-bin safety and technical rescue training courses in 2005 and 2006. If the programs meet expectations, others will be scheduled subsequently.

In a meeting in Albuquerque, NM Feb. 26, the GEAPS board of directors agreed to contract with Madison Heights, MI-based Safety and Technical Rescue Association (SATRA) to develop and provide the training programs. One of the programs will be held June 28-30 in Frankenmuth, MI and the other at a site in Maryland some time in 2006.

SATRA provides search-and-rescue services and training for a wide range of emergency situations in the United States and internationally. The association assists local first re-

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sponders, when they need help or specialized equipment or skills.

The GEAPS program will focus on grain bin safety and rescue exclusively and is not intended for general industry.

### Grain Bin Safety/ Technical Rescue Training Course

• June 28-30, 2005 -  
Frankenmuth, MI

• 2006, Maryland -  
Date and Location TBD

“SATRA is a highly regarded rescue training organization, which has done training activities in half a dozen countries,” said

Wayne Bauer,

GEAPS International board chair and safety director at Star of the West Milling Co., Frankenmuth. “We know what they do, and we’re really pleased that we’ll be able to provide this service to our members and others. GEAPS has been dedicated to bin safety for a long time, and this program will add an important new dimension to that commitment.”

Three GEAPS chapters have worked with SATRA for the past four years, in bin-safety workshops offered at a regional conference in Angola, IN. GEAPS also worked with SATRA at GEAPS Exchange 2005 in Albuquerque. SATRA representative Mike Brink served as a presenter at the exchange’s pre-conference workshop, “Bin Safety and Rescue Training.”

“It’s clear that this is a very qualified and highly skilled group,” Bauer said.

### Ongoing Concern

GEAPS International President Kevin Danner said GEAPS’ decision to offer the training stemmed from continuing problems within the industry. “Over the past several years, GEAPS has provided numerous programs and a lot of information about bin safety, proper bin entry, and so on, and now we’re going to take it a step further,” Danner said.

Danner, corporate safety director at West Central Cooperative, Ralston, IA said the training would continue to emphasize safe bin-entry protocol but also will deal extensively with technical rescue procedures.

“Prevention and elimination of grain bin entrapments will continue to be our primary focus, but because people do become entrapped in grain, the program will discuss and demonstrate the best techniques for their safe removal,” Danner said.

The training programs will offer hands-on experience with technical rescue equipment including ropes and harnesses, bin anchorage points, coffer dams, mechanical advantage systems, tripods, davit arms, communications systems, and victim “packaging.”

### Registration

For the course in Frankenmuth, the class size will be limited to 30, on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration for the program will begin May 2. Hotel rooms will be available June 27, 28, and 29, at the Drury Inn in Frankenmuth at a discounted rate of \$72 per night, with breakfast included. To make a reservation, contact the hotel at 800-325-0720, by June 10. Be sure to mention GEAPS.

Anyone with responsibilities relating to bin safety is encouraged to enroll. Bauer suggested that grain industry professionals might want to consider inviting representatives from their local fire departments or emergency response teams, to provide them with background on grain bin rescue techniques and equipment.

Discounted fees will be available for GEAPS members. For info, call GEAPS at 612-339-4625.

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