



Hazard Alert

Safety Matters
@ Work

HAZARD SUMMARY

A farmer was seriously injured when he fell 20 feet from the side of a 200 tonne grain tank. He was climbing the attached ladder to enter the bin from the top hatch to dislodge bridged grain. Both side rails broke and the ladder began to detach from the bin. The rung that he was holding on to pulled through the bolt holes and the farmer fell to the ground. The tank was only 4 years old.



Hazard Location:

On-farm grain storage tank.

Cause

- Inadequate building material for exterior ladder of grain tank. The ladder was not CSA approved and was made of aluminum pipe that was weakened at the crimp points and at the drilled bolt hole sites.
- The farmer was not wearing any fall protection.

Legislated Requirements:

- The Occupational Health and Safety Act under Section 17 states that “a self-employed person shall take every reasonable precaution to protect the self-employed person’s own occupational health and safety and that of other persons...”
- The Act also states under Section 15 that “a supplier shall ensure that any item, device, material, equipment or machinery supplied by the supplier to a workplace is, when it is supplied, properly equipped with the safety features or devices required by the regulations.”

PROMOTING SAFE WORKPLACES ... PROTECTING EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS



Workers Compensation Board
of Prince Edward Island

Recommended Precautions:

- Install ladders that are welded together instead of being bolted and are engineer-designed to meet CSA standards. *(picture 2)*
- Examine ladders before climbing for metal fatigue, rust, and cracking on both the rungs and the ladder walls. Complete regular maintenance on ladders, making sure to replace rusted bolts and bent rungs and checking tightness of all nuts and bolts.
- Ensure that there is restricted access to the ladder to prevent children or unauthorized people from climbing. This may include:

A ladder block-off plate that covers the bottom rungs and can be closed and secured. (picture 3)

Removal of the bottom 4 feet of rungs so that the ladder does not go down to the ground.

A removable or retractable ladder.

- Install an engineered anchor point in the roof to which fall protection can be attached, step-off platforms every 10 feet *(picture 4)* or circular stairs with a railing.
- Receive fall protection training and wear appropriate fall protection equipment.

