

Workplace Fatality Summary Report:

Worker Fatally Injured by Unguarded Equipment

The Contents of this Report

This report summarizes the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety's Occupational Health and Safety Branch investigation of a fatal incident. The information contained is intended for educational purposes only.

Incident Summary

A worker was fatally injured after their clothing became caught in a grain mill's unguarded power take-off shaft (PTO shaft).

Background Information

The fatally injured worker was mentored on farm operations while working for the employer.

Equipment and Materials

Cattle Feed Processing System:

This photograph provides a view of the entire worksite. The feed processing system included two augers, two tractors and a grain mill. One tractor powered the grain mill while the other powered the blue auger. The grain mill and one of the tractors are not visible in this photo (Figure 1).



Figure 1

Augers:

When the incident occurred the red, electrically powered auger was drawing barley from the bottom of one grain bin and passing it through the grain mill. The blue auger was transferring the processed barley from the grain mill to another bin nearby (Figure 2).



Figure 2

Grain Mill (roller):

Rollers inside a grain mill crack and process various types of grain prior to feeding livestock, ensuring the animals can easily digest the food. There were no guards covering the moving parts on the front of the grain mill and its rotating PTO shaft when the worker was harmed (Figure 3).



Figure 3

Tractor and PTO Shaft:

The grain mill's PTO shaft was connected to and energized through a tractor. The shaft rotated making the mill's rollers and gears move. In this photo, the unguarded PTO shaft– where the worker's clothing became caught– has been disengaged from its connection location on the tractor (Figure 4). Figure 5 is an example of a guarded PTO shaft connected to a different tractor.



Figure 4



Figure 5

Sequence of Events

During morning chores, the worker was instructed to feed the cattle by processing grain and storing the excess product in the grain bin.

To ready the equipment, the worker attached the tractor to the grain mill and engaged the PTO shaft's lever to begin rolling the barley.

No one was present when the incident occurred, however, it was determined that while visually checking the barley rolling process, the worker's clothing inadvertently contacted the grain mill's unguarded rotating PTO shaft. At that point, the clothing wrapped around the shaft trapping and fatally injuring the worker.

Completion

The employer plead guilty to clause 137(1)(a) of *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996*, being an employer failed to provide an effective safeguard where a worker may contact a dangerous moving part of a machine, resulting in the death of a worker. The employer was fined \$57,143 plus a victim surcharge of \$22,857.