



### TALK LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize your talk to your operation and facilities.

- ✓ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the participants.
- ✓ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible.
- ✓ Be open to questions.
- ✓ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✓ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✓ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

### WORK ACTIVITY

Grain dust is produced when grain is harvested, dried, moved, stored and processed. The dust includes bacteria, fungi, insects, insect parts, animal droppings and possibly pesticide residues as well as dry plant particles.

### BACKGROUND

Dust in the lungs has both immediate and long-term effects. It can cause additional physical stress for the person, resulting in fatigue or shortness of breath. Long-term exposure to dust can be accompanied by congestion, coughing or wheezing, sensitivity to dust, and frequent respiratory infections such as colds, bronchitis, and pneumonia. Over time, exposure to dust can result in serious respiratory illnesses, such as farmer’s lung, asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and other ailments.

### Key Points

**WE HAVE INTEGRATED STRATEGY STANDARD OPERATING PRACTICES FOR EACH TASK ON OUR FARM INCLUDING GRAIN HANDLING AND THE USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT INCLUDING RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.** If you don’t remember them, review them—you can find them:

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On our farm, we have put in place procedures and engineering controls to help manage grain dust. It’s important, as a condition of employment, you use these engineering controls and procedures. If you have concerns or questions, please talk to a supervisor.

### WHEN IS GRAIN DUST A PROBLEM?

- During harvest and when moving grain from combines into grain trucks or wagons

- Moving grain from grain trucks or wagons into grain bins
- Moving grain around in grain bins
- Cleaning grain
- Feeding livestock milled grain
- Cleaning grain bins

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT GRAIN DUST INHALATION?

- Be Aware. Understand what kind of tasks can expose you to grain dust.
- Use respiratory protective equipment (RPE) provided. If you are having problems with your respiratory protective equipment, please tell a supervisor.
- Make sure you are wearing the appropriate respiratory protective equipment for the job:
  - Dust masks can help you avoid exposure to nuisance dust but does not protect you against organic vapors.
  - Wear the N95 air-purifying

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## CAUTION

Respirators that filter dust cannot protect wearers in toxic chemical environments, such as manure pits, silos, or sludge tanks. Wearing a respirator equipped with a dust filter in these conditions can be fatal.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES / CONTACTS

In case of incident or injury, call 911 or your local emergency services, then me or your supervisor.

## MORE RESOURCES

*Farmer's Lung*, by Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, available at [http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/farmers\\_lung.html](http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/farmers_lung.html).

disposable particulate respirator provided when working with grain.

- It's our responsibility to have your respirator properly fitted. It's your responsibility to keep facial hair shaved (if applicable). Even a day's worth of stubble can prevent a good seal. If you have gained or lost weight, please inform a supervisor so we can refit your RPE.
- It is also your responsibility to maintain your respiratory protective equipment. Keep them clean and dry and away from chemical storage areas.
- When working around grain dust, wear the other personal protective equipment as highlighted in our Integrated Safety Standard Operating Procedures. Coveralls will prevent dust from settling on

personal clothing and eye protection will prevent dust from affecting your eyes. Make sure you remove dust from personal or protective clothing before you take off your respiratory protective equipment.

What are some other tasks that might expose you to grain dust?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Operation Name \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## TOOLBOX TALK PARTICIPANTS

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



CanadaFarmSafe  
SécuriFermeCanada

This Producer Tool was developed by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). Conducting regular Toolbox Talks, or safety meetings, with farm workers is one component of establishing a comprehensive farm safety plan as outlined in the Canada FarmSafe Plan, CASA's business-risk management tool for health and safety on the farm. To download the core Canada FarmSafe Plan, visit [casa-acsa.ca/CanadaFarmSafePlan](http://casa-acsa.ca/CanadaFarmSafePlan), or contact CASA to learn more at 1-877-452-2272.

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