

Fall Fatality at Grain Storage Facility

Unfortunately we have a tragedy to report. Last week a contractor was hired to extend a bucket elevator and platform at our small grain facility in Patoka, IL. This is about an hour drive south of Decatur on Highway 51. The old (lower) platform was to be removed.

A 19 year-old employee that had been working for the company only a couple of months went up on the platform after a break. He had his harness and double (100% tie-off) lanyard on. He cut through the top handrail angle, the mid-rail, the toe board, and lastly the angle iron supporting a grating section that he was working from. As he freed the outside angle support, the small grated section fell out and the young employee fell 135 feet through the metal roof below and subsequently onto the concrete below that. This obviously resulted in his death. There is some speculation that he may have had his lanyard hooked to the mid-rail because one leg of the lanyard was attached to his belt and the other leg was free, but we will never know for sure. This is all of the details that I have for now.

This is an extremely tragic event and appears that inexperience may have been a factor. It is crucial that we look out for the safety and well being of our co-workers; especially those that are new, young, or inexperienced.



