

"Seconds to Tragedy: Grain Safety for Young Workers"

Discussion Questions

Video Introduction:

The video you are about to see - "Seconds to Tragedy: Grain Safety for Young Workers" - is a true story.

Agricultural safety is not a popular topic, but is important. Agriculture continues to be among the USA's most dangerous industries. Many of the jobs associated with agriculture, such as grain handling and storage, contain numerous hazards and can be dangerous. When these hazards are unknown or not properly identified and correct safety strategies are not used, the risk of serious injury and death increases.

Based on interviews with the survivors, family and community members of the Mt. Carroll grain bin tragedy, the video provides a poignant look at the need to educate young workers about safety and encourage them to Stand T.A.L.L. (Talk, Ask, Learn, Live) - speak up and ask questions before tragedy strikes forever impacting people's lives and their communities.

Discussion Questions:

1. I think we can agree this video, based on a true story, arouses many emotions. **How do you think this type of incident would impact your life, your family, your community?**

If no one responds, the instructor might ask:

- a. Will says *"So after that I get out of the bin, I get out of this traumatic accident where I see 2 people close to me die. One, I feel his last heartbeat. That's gonna mess anyone up."* **How do you think that would "mess anyone up"?**
 - b. When Mrs. Whitebread says toward the end *"I will never be the same person I was before this."* **What do you think Mrs. Whitebread means by this? How do you think this tragedy impacts her and the family on a daily basis and special occasions like holidays, birthdays, etc.? Do you know anyone who anyone who has had a tragedy in their life? How has it impacted them?**
2. Toward the end of the video Chris says *"If the employer tries to get you to do the job without your proper safety equipment, just walk away and tell him I'm not getting in there unless I'm safe."* **How would you handle a similar situation?**



3. In the video it is apparent that in addition to the boys being too young to be in the bin, there were also safety strategies missing. **What were they?**
(**Note:** the video discusses just some of the missing safety strategies. The facilitator should tell the audience not all safety strategies are covered in the video and encourage discussion about the video content. The facilitator may then follow up asking if anyone knows of other safety strategies and make a recommendation to receive additional training).
4. Will makes some powerful statements "*We work for cheap, we did work that a lot of people were smart enough not to even do. And we didn't care, we didn't know any better. That was just, someone told us to do something and we did it.*"...
 - a. **What do you think an employer's responsibilities are?**
 - b. **What do you think a worker's responsibilities are?**
 - c. **Think about these responsibilities. How or why do you think the employer took advantage or did not take advantage of the young workers?**
5. Mrs. Whitebread, Will, Chris, and the narrator all make similar statements about speaking up.
 - a. **Why do you think this is important?**
 - b. **How does Stand TALL emphasize this message?**
6. **After seeing this video, what did you learn that you can apply to your family farm or your work place? What will you do differently in the future?**