



## **DOSH Hazard Awareness eBulletin**

**#6HB2010**

**November 10, 2010**

Attention: *Businesses owners, managers, supervisors, and employees using sweep augers to empty grain bins:*

Augers are unforgiving. Once they have you they don't let go!

Recently 2 employees had lower limbs amputated by **floor** augers that were left uncovered:

- One employee who was moving a sweep auger inside a grain bin lost his foot when he stepped through a floor opening onto a rotating auger. (see photo 1)
- Another employee lost his entire lower leg when his foot slid sideways through a vertical opening into a rotating floor auger located inside an access tunnel between grain bins. (see photo 2)

Injuries like these are preventable. Machine safeguarding and employee training on lock-out/tag-out procedures and other safe work practices are essential to keeping safe during daily, routine tasks.

Use these resources to help find and fix auger hazards in your workplace:

- [Floor auger fatality](#) (Iowa FACE program)
- [Machine Guarding](#) L & I topic page
- [Confined Spaces](#) L & I topic page
- [Lockout/Tagout](#) L & I topic page
- [Grain Handling Facilities](#) L & I topic page
- OSHA Interpretation Letters: [September 29, 2008](#) and [December 24, 2009](#)
- [Safety with Grain Augers](#) (training fact sheet from North Dakota State University)
- [Grain Auger Safety](#) (Texas Dept. of Insurance)
- [Grain and Silage Handling](#) (Chapter 3: Storage, a NIOSH publication)

**Please share this bulletin with others in your industry and safety networks.**

*This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees to potential hazards associated with work activities. This is not a rule and creates no new legal obligations. The information provided includes suggested guidance on how to avoid workplace injuries. DOSH recommends you also check the related rules for additional requirements.*

Get another copy of this document and find other resources for preventing workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses on our web site: [www.LNI.wa.gov/Safety](http://www.LNI.wa.gov/Safety)



1: Keep safety covers on floor auger openings and use appropriate safety guards on sweep augers ([WAC 296-307-29005](#)).



2. Bad idea. You can slip and slide right into the exposed shear points on this floor auger.