

# Weekly START

{Safety Tips & Regulatory Topics} | October 8, 2018



Exclusive tips and conversation starters for members of the Safety • Health • Environmental Services Program

*Grain and Feed Association of Illinois*

## Tarpping a Ground Pile

This year's harvest will require temporary ground piles. The following are best practices and common safety hazards during the tarping process:

- Pulling a tarp is physically very demanding. Make sure employees are physically able to walk up a pile and pull a tarp. Rescuing someone who gets caught under the tarp is very difficult.
- Have enough people to complete the task. More is better.
- There should be one person to lead the process. Everyone needs to work together.
- A tarp can weigh as much as 1000 lbs per section.
- Minimum wind speeds are best for tarping. 10 mph or under is a good rule of thumb.
- Employees need to be careful walking on the tarped pile when the tarp is wet or frost coated. They can be very slick.
- Falling off of a ground pile structure could result in a fall of as much as 10'.
- Several ladders should be available to access the pile.
- During the tarping process there will likely be a lot of heavy equipment such as: skid steers, end loaders, trucks, cranes and tractors. Employees must be alert for these vehicles.
- Ropes and rigging may be used to pull the tarp onto the grain pile. Employees should avoid working near a rigging under load.
- Wear appropriate company PPE (hardhats, gloves etc.)
- If sewing the tarp, the employees need to be careful of using drop cords in water. In any wet or damp location, Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters(GFCI) must be used.



Pulling a tarp is physically demanding so more employees are better when completing this task. Picture from Garden City Co-op.



Be aware of frost or slick conditions that can pose a falling hazard.



Have one person lead the process so the tarp is pulled evenly. Picture from Garden City Co-op.