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ABSTRACTS FROM THE 2013 NORTH AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY SUMMIT

The Grain Handling Safety Coalition: Organizations Collaborating to Address Grain Safety Issues

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Various aspects of moving grain into and out of storage have long been recognized as highly hazardous due to the risks and injury experience of workers. In past years the industry has not affectively addressed many of the injury risks associated with grain handling. The Grain Handling Safety Coalition (GHSC) was formed in an attempt to bring effected parties of all sides of the issue together to explore means to effectively and practically improve addressing safety issues associated with grain handling and storage. After an initial phone conference, face to face meetings and phone conferences were held to discuss in-depth the issues from the perspectives of the represented agencies; identify key topics; and develop action plans. The GHSC sought funding (grants and donations) to initiate action plans. Committees formed and were tasked with development and implementation of action plan components. The GHSC reviewed each component prior to implementation. The Coalition has grown to represent more than 20 organizations including industry associations, farm organizations, grain bin manufacturers, universities, support services and farm service agencies (insurance, rural medical, rescue, USDA FDA, farm credit) regulatory, (state department of agriculture, OSHA, Wage and Hour for child labor) and commercial industry (grain elevators). Existing training programs in some key areas, such as how to establish a lifeline in a grain bin, lack specific detail on how to perform the procedure. It was difficult to attract farmers to programs that were 4 hours or longer. Training programs and associated materials received very high rating for quality. Conducted training programs for workers and potential community based instructors. Promoting training modules through conferences, websites, newsletters etc. The training programs developed need to be integrated into the agricultural industry nationwide. Further work on how to effectively train both farm workers and grain elevator workers need to be conducted. Testing of the use of a full body harness and lanyard in pulling out someone entrapped in grain. Facilitating 2014 Grain Suffocation Prevention Symposium.

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Identification and Characterization of Data Sources for Logger Injuries and Fatalities

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Logging, both as an industry and as an occupation, has long been recognized as one of the most

dangerous areas in which to work, yet there is no comprehensive epidemiological analysis of the risk factors, causes, nature and outcome of injury among logging workers- especially in the U.S. Public Health Region VI that consists of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The primary objective of this study is to identify and characterize the existing surveillance data sources so that useful information can be generated to plan and develop safer forestry activities. The investigation incorporates literature review, a description of the available data sources and a critical assessment of data sources. We evaluated data availability for health outcomes, exposures and at-risk populations in the forestry sector. We conducted a retrospective and comprehensive assessment of the various sources of information currently available throughout the Federal and State Departments and scientific literature. The logging industry leaders and worker advocates were leveraged for their expertise in available data sources.

We prepared an inventory of available data on injury surveillance, surveys, and current forestry worker population information and assessed the current and future needs of these and thereby reported on existing data gaps. Limitations were noted in the available data and resulting rates such as underreporting, data coverage (i.e., inclusion and exclusion criteria), varying case definitions, or availability and specification of denominator data. Data sources are carefully documented, the rates are defined and detailed formulas for their calculation are documented. Recommendations are made for future data collection or rate calculations. We propose to develop the methods to calculate and present forestry health and safety indicators. The purpose and significance of the rates, filters applied for confidentiality, limitations, and recommendations will also be noted. A data dictionary including variables, values, and coding categories will be developed and maintained to facilitate consistency and to document procedures and decisions.

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Voluntary Certification Systems to Protect Children's Safety and Health in Agriculture

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There are promising developments associated with globalized agricultural production and trade. Corporate codes of conduct and consumers' expectations are profoundly influencing national and multinational companies to address labor conditions for adults and children, often through voluntary certification systems. There is provable metrical and experiential value to such systems, as well limitations and implementation issues for North American producers. During their 15 year history, voluntary certification systems have found their improvements matched with greater success in acceptance, implementation and results. This success in the private sector has gained some governmental notice and emulation. In 2010 the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) formed a consultative group to submit recommendations to eliminate forced child labor in imported agricultural goods and products. It highlighted several of these voluntary certification systems. There have been qualitative and quantitative evaluations which have indicated that compliance with particular voluntary social accountability systems' requirements does reduce children's occupational injuries in agricultural work in many areas of the world. Anecdotal comments of certified producers also provide a positive view of its cost/benefits, techniques and value. The participation and buy-in of relevant stakeholders of an industry sector or entity seeking certification are critical to its success. The support and cooperation of industry leaders, worker groups, government, consumer groups and retailers should be enlisted to assist in making child labor safety and health gains a