



## 9. We Survived: Lessons Learned in a Grain Bin Rescue

Entrapment in a grain facility is most likely a fatal event. In this class we will hear from two area farmers that were trapped and survived the ordeal. We will also hear from the responders that were on hand to rescue the victims. On May 04, 2022, Union County farmer Doug Omer became entrapped inside of a 90,000-bushel grain bin. The class will begin with Doug telling his story of his entrapment in this 95-foot tall by 45-foot diameter bin and his recollection from when he got trapped, to the rescue, and finish with the trip to the hospital. Dale Pierce was the lead rescuer that spent over 4 hours in the bin working to free Mr. Omer from the grain and get him out of the bin and onto the ground. In neighboring Henderson County in March of 2024, Johnny Southard was engulfed by grain and had to be rescued by local rescuers. James Egbert was one of the first responding units to arrive and will provide information on the rescue activities that responders took to make it a successful rescue. Johnny, a 55-year veteran of farming operations, became entrapped in a 12,000-bushel bin while working alone and waited more than an hour until his nephew came to check on him. Dale Dobson will facilitate this class and provide the Best-Practices that responders should know to work these types of emergencies.

### Instructors

**Doug Omer** is a 55-year-old, lifelong farmer in the Henshaw Community in Union County. He farms about 3,000 acres of row crops and has about 250 head of beef cattle. Doug and his father have run the farming operation for many years.

**Johnny Southard** farms about 3,000 acres in Henderson County with two nephews. He has been farming for more than 55 years.

**Dale Dobson** works with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as the Safety Administrator. He is a proud Farmer, Firefighter, and EMT serving all of these roles in Hodgenville, KY. He is married with 3 kids and 6 grandchildren. He has a passion for safety, enjoys traveling the country, and over the past 33 years has seen agriculture progress and make safety a top priority. Dale's motto is "Life is good".