

I Survived: Lessons Learned From A Grain Bin Rescue

This class will cover the events of May 04, 2022, when 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. Donnie Cato will recap his experiences of providing medical care to a patient entrapped within the grain. Dale Dobson will facilitate this class and provide the Best-Practices that responders should know to work these types of emergencies.

Instructors – Doug Omer, Dale Pierce, Donnie Cato, Dale Dobson

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.

Dale Pierce has been in the fire service for 15 years, career and volunteer in Union County, Kentucky. During this time, he has grown into the ranks of Chief for the Whispering Meadows Volunteer Fire dept and Chief of the Active Shooter response team. He has served as an instructor for Kentucky Fire Commission/State Fire Rescue Training since 2016. He is an EMT and holds many IFSAC Accredited Certifications. In 2022, he became the Safety & Compliance Officer for Health First Community health center. Working with both the fire service and health care helped him identify the need for education to keep everything running smoothly and safely.

Donnie Cato is a 27-year Paramedic and has over 33 years of experience in the Fire/EMS community. He began his career at the Grapevine Fire Department and went through the ranks from firefighter to Chief. He has worked for several years as a career firefighter at Hopkinsville Fire Department. He has years of experience with technical rescue including high angle and confined space rescue. Donnie currently is the Operations Manager for Deaconess EMS, Kentucky operations.

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. 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".