

Life Changing Agriculture Injury Stories from Farmers

Ron's Ladder Fall from Grain Tank

(audio transcripts) Rev. 6/2011

http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/ag_storycorps

Mike: Can you tell me what happened on October 12th, 2009?

Ron: I don't remember what happened, but what I pieced together from what everyone's told me—I fell from a ladder on a metal grain tank, but to this day I have no recollection of the fall, or the next two weeks, and even some of the previous ten days to my accident. We don't know exactly how high I was, I was at the tank by myself trying to remove a sweep auger which you use when you get to the bottom of the tank to get all the grain out. Something that I've done many times before, although I will say that most of the time when we do it there are two people there. I had a fractured skull, a fractured clavicle, five fractured ribs, had some fractures of the small bones in my left ear. I was in the hospital from the 12th of October to the 8th of November, and that included about half the time in rehab. The doctors tell me, and they told my family, that I'm very fortunate that I'm as well off as I am. But ever since I've been home, I get really tired really easily. It seems like that it's taken a lot longer than I thought it was going to, to get my strength back. I've also experienced some, I guess you would call it depression. But looking at it the other way from what everybody says, this is sure better than the alternative because there was some speculation I guess at first that the injuries might be bad enough that I'd never recover.

Mike: So what do you think we could have done to help prevent this accident?

Ron: I know the biggest mistake was me being up there by myself, particularly at my age. Nobody knows how long I was lying over there. So if somebody would have been there with me, that would have been eliminated as far as me having to get home on my own. I suppose the other thing would be that I have to realize that I'm not the same person that I used to be and maybe I shouldn't be in such a big hurry all the time.



The PACIFIC NORTHWEST AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (PNASH) CENTER

University of Washington, Box 357234, Seattle, WA 98195-7234,
pnash@uw.edu (800) 330-0827 <http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/>

