



## **PERQUIMANS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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**Jonathan A. Nixon, Director**

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### **PRESS RELEASE – Grain Bin Training and Exercise**

As expected, the last weekend in February was around 40 degrees, overcast, and a bit windy, but it didn't stop over 50 first responders from participating in a Grain Bin Exercise. This weekend was an opportunity to evaluate the skills from the grain bin training in January and apply them in a realistic exercise that included incident command, accountability, rescue operations, setting up a landing zone, medical operations and rehabilitation of public safety personnel. The scenario included 3 patients, 2 of which were entrapped in the grain bin and had to be extricated and one that had been electrocuted at the farm's electrical panel box. These exercises allow our departments to work together in a more controlled environment so that we can learn weaknesses and continue to build on them as a team, for the betterment of our community. An incident of this nature would likely require additional manpower and span over several hours, so it is anticipated that responders from neighboring counties would also assist in an extrication. For this exercise, we had firefighters from Elizabeth City Fire Department and Center Hill Crossroads Fire Department join us.

Our January grain bin training allowed personnel to test different equipment from other counties that could be used to help extricate or stabilize a patient trapped in a grain bin. It was found that a grain bin tube and rescue auger would be extremely helpful if an entrapment occurred. Perquimans County Farm Bureau Board of Directors graciously donated \$2,600 that has been used to purchase both the grain bin tube and the rescue auger for our community. The grain bin tube is compatible with the equipment that Elizabeth City Fire Department and Tyrell County Fire Department currently uses to make it easier for crews to use and will also allow the panels to connect to other tubes if a larger area is needed during extrication.

Perquimans County Farm Bureau board members, Robert and Rena Eure, have also secured funding from Parkway Ag for "SILO", the first ever film about a grain bin entrapment. This film is inspired by a true story involving a teenager that becomes entrapped in a 50' tall grain bin. This film shows family, neighbors, and first responders working together to extricate Cody from a primary source of revenue for their community.

This film will be shown at Perquimans County High School on April 26, 2020 at 3 p.m. in the auditorium. An event of this nature would impact our entire community, as well as those around us. We would like to invite everyone to come learn about the challenges that a community would face in an incident like this.

A special thanks goes out to:

Homeland Security Grant Program – funding for the grain bin exercise

Perquimans County Farm Bureau Board of Directors – grain bin tube and rescue auger

Robert, Rena and Chris Eure of Eure Family Farms - for the use of the farm

Parkway Ag - for the sponsorship of "SILO"

Perquimans County High School – for the use of the auditorium

Sam's Safety Consultants – planning and evaluating the exercise

Elizabeth City Fire Department - guidance and oversight on rescue operations

Center Hill Crossroads Fire Department - participating in the exercise

Chowan County Emergency Management - participating in the exercise

And our very own...  
Belvidere Fire Department  
Bethel Fire Department  
Durants Neck Fire Department  
Hertford Fire Department  
Inter-County Fire Department  
Winfall Fire Department  
Perquimans County 911 Communications  
Perquimans County EMS  
Perquimans County Emergency Management





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