



August 24 — The Hazard You Can't See

Observed vacuum trucks removing DDGS product from the silo. I did not observe a visible grounding/bonding connection or static control verification during the operation. Vacuuming combustible dust can generate static electricity

Notify the area supervisor and review the vacuum truck setup to ensure static control measures have been evaluated, required grounding/bonding or approved alternatives are in place, and the operation complies with the site's combustible dust safety procedures.

Not every hazard is visible...

...but every hazard deserves our attention.

During an observation of vacuum trucks removing DDGS product from a silo, it was noted that no visible grounding or bonding connection or static control verification could be observed. While the operation appeared routine, transferring combustible dust can generate static electricity. If that static charge is not properly controlled, it has the potential to become an ignition source.

Static electricity builds quietly and without warning. You can't see it accumulating, hear it forming, or always feel it until it's too late. That's why grounding and bonding procedures are so important. They aren't simply another step in the process—they're engineered controls that safely dissipate static energy before it becomes a hazard.

This observation reminds us that some of our most serious hazards are the ones we can't detect with our senses. Safe work requires more than looking for what's obvious. It means verifying that critical controls, such as grounding, bonding, and static control measures, are in place before work begins. Taking the time to confirm those protections today can prevent a catastrophic event tomorrow.

Hazards

- Static electricity buildup
- Ignition of combustible dust
- Fire or explosion
- Inadequate grounding or bonding
- Dust transfer operations
- Failure to verify critical safety controls

Words of Wisdom

The most dangerous hazards are often the ones you can't see. That's why verification matters.

Pause and Think

- Before beginning a product transfer, how do you verify that grounding and bonding requirements have been met?
- Do you understand when static electricity can become an ignition source?
- What critical safety controls do we rely on that aren't always visible?
- If you can't verify a required control is in place, what should you do?
- How can our crew make verification part of every high-risk task?

Closing Thought

Safe work isn't just about seeing hazards—it's about confirming the protections that control them. When critical safeguards like grounding and bonding are involved, never assume they're in place. Take the time to verify before the work begins.