

Man freed after four hours in grain bin

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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All Points Cooperative employee trapped in soybeans.

After a four-hour rescue Wednesday, an All Points Cooperative employee walked away from a bin where he was trapped in soybeans.

The man, Rick Frickenstein, was taken to Gothenburg Memorial Hospital for observation but didn't appear to have injuries, according to assistant Gothenburg rescue captain Mike Wagner.

Frickenstein apparently was near the bottom of the bin trying to unplug an auger when he became engulfed in grain.

Wagner said Frickenstein called for help on a cell phone and the Gothenburg rescue crew arrived about 9:30 a.m.

Crew members used climbing gear to get to the man who was immobilized up to his armpits, rescue officials said.

They shoved plywood around Frickenstein to remove pressure from the grain, strapped webbing around his chest with a rope and began vacuuming out the grain.

Frickenstein was freed about 1:30 p.m.