



Westway

Tanks For Staying Out

Don't go into a liquid storage tank. Because you might not come out.

Carbon Dioxide is heavier than air, so CO₂ can build up in the headspace of a tank, gradually displacing the air.

The situation most likely to result in significant CO₂ production is:

- Low liquid usage rate (so the tank headspace atmosphere is undisturbed)
- Warm weather (which is favorable to fermentation).

Tanks for your attention.

This is intended as general information provided for Westway customers. It is not intended for general distribution, nor does it provide complete instruction for tank entry procedures.



Tanks For Staying Out

Don't go into a liquid storage tank.

Why? Because you might not come out.

Like the honey in the jar in your kitchen, most liquid blends are too concentrated to ferment. However, moisture condenses on the walls of storage tanks, and can seep down onto the surface of the liquid. When this happens, the layer of thinned liquid can support microbial growth. The microbes produce carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Carbon Dioxide is heavier than air, so CO₂ can build up in the headspace of the tank, gradually displacing the air. If a person inhales a lungful of CO₂, they will pass out within seconds. If they remain in the CO₂ atmosphere for more than a few minutes, they can suffer permanent brain damage or even die.

It is rare for this to happen because CO₂ production is very slow. The action of refilling the tank with liquid breaks up the thin fermenting layer, and forces the headspace CO₂ out of the tank vents.

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Here's a hypothetical situation:

You have a feed mill. It's August. The hot summer caused the usual slump in your grind and mix business and left you with some of the mill blend that was delivered last April still in your tank.

Osama Bin Laden knocks on your door. The U.S. Marines are hot on his trail and he wants a place to hide. Where do you suggest he go?

Please make the right choice about tank entry.

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