SE Nebraska Elevator Fined for Safety Violations

WILBER, Neb. (AP) - Federal regulators are proposing \$45,500 in fines for what they say were two safety violations at a grain elevator in Wilber.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration said in a news release Tuesday that it's seeking to fine the Farmers Cooperative elevator in Wilber. Farmers Cooperative is based in Dorchester and has facilities in 40 Nebraska and Kansas communities.

OSHA says the violations included allowing grain bin dust to accumulate on surfaces past allowable standards, increasing the potential of a grain dust explosion, and a repeat violation for fall hazards involving unguarded ladders.

Ron Velder, president of Farmers Cooperative, said Tuesday that the cooperative just received notice of the alleged violations and is in the process of responding.

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