



**RACINE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Chief's Office: 262-635-7911**

February 15, 2010

Michael J. Kelly  
The START Group  
Bloomington, IL.

Hello Mike,

I do hope this letter finds you and your instructors well. I wanted to take a moment and share with you what I feel is a great story. On February 9, 2010 we received a call from MABAS 102 communications. The City of Burlington Fire Department requested special operations personnel from the Racine Fire Department for a man trapped in a grain silo. This was clearly a low frequency and high risk incident for all responders. We responded with our heavy rescue and members of our special operations team. Once on scene they partnered with City of Burlington command and members of the Lake Geneva, Wisconsin Fire Department Special Operations team.

The victim, an adult male was trapped to just below chest high in soybeans about twenty feet horizontally into the silo. While breathing and conscious, he was in great peril. Working with members of Lake Geneva Fire Department, our member's utilized methodology and practical skills learned in sessions on confined space and trench rescue to effect this victim's rescue. Those sessions were of course delivered by you and members of the START Group. Entry permits were checked and verified, lock out-tag out issues were confirmed, air monitoring and subsequent fresh air support was done all per training. The victim was slowly isolated from additional soybeans in the silo, a Vactor truck from the City of Burlington was summoned to the scene, and the victim was ultimately freed and given to EMS for evaluation and transport to the local medical facility.

Our personnel were very proficient on the day and I attribute a measure of that efficiency to the START Group. Efforts with you as well as CVMIC to obtain quality training for our personnel in these disciplines truly become worth that entire effort on February 9, 2010. The execution of skills on scene by both Lake Geneva members and ours made the difference. The gentleman is alive to tell of his rescue. There were no responder injuries during the rescue.

Once again Mike I want to say thanks. Thanks to you and thanks to the dedicated professionals at the START Group! We look forward to training with you in the future.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Bush', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Bush  
Division Chief of Training/Safety  
Racine Fire Department  
Racine, WI.