

# Montana Ag Safety Program



## Irrigation Safety

- Wear appropriate PPE.
    - Sturdy, waterproof footwear, gloves, ear plugs/muffs when necessary, and safety glasses. Hardhats may be necessary for completing many of the tasks associated with irrigation.
    - Remove jewelry; secure loose clothing and long hair.
  - Be alert for changing weather conditions!
  - Know the location of all ditches, risers, and pivot tracks.
  - Assume all lines are pressurized; keep your face away from all valves when adjusting.
  - Regularly inspect and maintain all system components.
  - Repeatedly tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses could indicate a serious issue.
  - Know the location of all overhead power lines and telephone lines! Watch for any other overhead obstructions.
    - Keep objects as low as possible during transport.
    - Avoid lifting pipes vertically. Move pipes in a horizontal position whenever possible.
  - Use proper lifting technique. Keep your elbows close to your sides for better leverage.
  - Remove excess water or overgrown vegetation to help reduce weight.
  - Deenergize all power sources completely before servicing or repairing.
    - Use appropriate lockout/tagout procedures.
    - Ensure lockout procedures are sufficient to protect against accidental starting on newer “phone controlled” units.
    - Use a voltmeter to confirm power has been deenergized.
    - Use a ‘backhand’ technique for making initial contact with any electrical components.
- Remember, water increases your susceptibility to electric shock!**
- Ensure adequate working space is maintained around all electrical components. You should never have to bend over, kneel, or lay on your back, side, or stomach to operate a switch or other control device.
  - Make sure all electrical devices are properly grounded.
  - Use proper fall protection, when necessary.
  - Stake or block wheel lines to prevent runaway sections when not in use.
  - Utilize all screens and guards. Use extreme caution around unguarded pulleys, belts, or drive shafts.
  - Maintain adequate ventilation in pump houses.
  - Never allow irrigation water to come in contact with electrical lines. If contact occurs, do not attempt to move the system. Contact your electrical utility provider for assistance.
  - Notify others on fields being chemigated/fertigated to avoid accidental exposure.
  - Avoid making contact with high pressure water streams (like those from an end gun) with any part of your body.
  - Use extreme caution around bodies of open water (ponds, ditches, canals, etc.). Know proper emergency response techniques if waders are to be worn.

These safety rules have been written and provided to you for your safety. Your signature below indicates you have read and understand these rules, and further, that you accept the responsibility of always using good judgment to make workplace safety your number one priority.

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