

TAILGATE TOPIC



TOPIC: Irrigation Safety

OVERVIEW: Irrigators work in conditions and with equipment that can cause severe injuries such as strains and sprains, electrocutions, crushing injuries and heat related illnesses. Understanding the hazards of the conditions and the equipment being used and the safety practices necessary to prevent injuries is essential. It is critical that each Irrigator receive safety training and follow safety practices in order to prevent injuries to themselves and others.

TALKING POINTS:

- Wear the proper footwear to keep your feet clean and dry.
 - Stretch before you begin work to help loosen and warm up muscles.
 - Never jump canals! Always use the bridges to cross canals.
 - Use proper lifting methods; bend at the knees, firmly grasp the object, keep the object close to your body and stand.
 - Use proper shoveling techniques; do not overload the shovel, push the nose of the shovel into the ground using your foot and keep your other foot firmly planted on the ground.
 - Inspect your shovel to make sure it is in good condition and report it to your Supervisor/Foreman if it is damaged.
 - Never put your fingers or hand into a pipe.
 - Remove water from the pipe before lifting or moving to reduce the weight of the pipe.
 - NEVER LIFT OR STACK PIPE NEAR OR UNDER ELECTRICAL LINES!
 - When moving loads of pipe, make sure that the load is secured.
 - Get help; always use two or more people to help move pipe or large coils.
 - Never run when carrying or moving pipe.
 - Avoid manually pulling drip lines during installation.
 - When cutting drip lines, use retractable cutting tools with safeguards and store tools safely.
- To avoid twisting your ankle, use caution walking through fields with uneven surfaces.
 - Do not drink irrigation or canal water.
 - When connecting pipe, make sure connections are secure before you turn on water.
 - Keep your body and face away from the direction of water travel in a pipe or sprinkler head.
 - Be aware of reptiles, animals and insects such as snakes, gophers and bees
 - Always drive ATV's and tractors at safe speeds for the conditions.
 - Never ride on tractors or pipe trailers.
 - Take rest breaks in the shade and drink plenty of water. Know the signs and symptoms of heat illness and be sure to let someone know if you or a fellow worker is not feeling well.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. Review and demonstrate proper lifting techniques.
2. When can you stack or lift pipe under and electrical line? (Answer: Never)
3. When can you ride on a pipe trailer or tractor? (Answer: Never allow passengers to ride on trailers or tractors.)
4. What are three ways to help prevent heat illness? (Answer: Rest breaks, shade and water.)

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