



Landscape Irrigation Safety

To minimize workplace injuries related to irrigation, workers must be trained on all irrigation systems and components before performing work.

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Follow manufacturer suggestions for inspection, maintenance and repair, and remember these safety practices:

- Read and understand equipment danger, warning and caution signs.
- Always wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE), such as:
 - Sturdy work boots
 - Coveralls
 - Gloves
 - Hard hat
 - Hearing and eye protection
- Properly inspect and maintain all irrigation systems.
- Report and repair malfunctioning systems. Look for the following:
 - Signs of sprinkler blockage or breakage
 - Problems with end gun flows
 - Debris in system
 - Deficient levels of lubrication
 - Water or fluid leaks
 - Barriers in the field that could halt or hinder system movement
- Maintain a written lockout-tagout program and document proper safety training. Be sure to follow proper lockout-tagout practices each time you perform maintenance or repair.
- Remember that equipment can be controlled locally, remotely or on timers.
- Never assume that equipment will stay off when turned off.
- Pay attention to potential hazards when applying lockout-tagout:
 - Verify the machine is off.
 - Control mechanical hazards, such as center drives, overhead hazards, tires, rotation and engines.
 - Control power to the motor, tower boxes and wiring.
 - Control water systems to the sprinklers, end guns, pumps and pipeline.
- Use extreme caution around overhead power lines when installing, maintaining and using irrigation systems.
- Remember these additional safety precautions to stay safe on the job:
 - Keep the system's traveling path free of objects and people.
 - Walk behind the system to prevent a collision.
 - Use heat exhaustion prevention guidelines. Provide access to shade and water.
 - Minimize exposure to the sun, insects and cold.
 - Be CPR and first-aid certified and know emergency procedures.
 - Use proper body postures and lifting techniques to avoid strains and sprains.

The advice presented in this document is intended as general information for employers.

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