Working with Irrigation Systems

Can youth do this job safely?

Youth must be able to do/have all of the following to perform this job safely:

- Avoid loose clothing, clothes with strings, tie up long hair
- If operating ATV, tractor or other equipment, comply with appropriate guideline(s)
- Understand and consistently repeat a 10 step process
- Recognize a hazard, problem solve, and respond appropriately
- React quickly to hazards
- Mature enough to consistently do what is expected
- Think through actions and consequences before acting
- Attention span long enough to complete work
- Bend and lift objects safely, using proper technique
- Carry the load the required distance without straining
- Understand how to lift and maneuver awkward objects
- Switch arms when doing repetitive tasks
- Safely demonstrate the job 4 to 5 times
- Maintain two-way communication link
- Change clothing and wash hands after completing job



Adult Responsibilities

- Comply with the working outdoors guideline
- Ensure work area is free from as many hazards as possible
- Educate youth on avoiding/addressing remaining hazards
- Provide tools sized appropriately for youth, if available
- Ensure equipment is mechanically sound with safety features in place, and demonstrate proper use
- Check for overhead and underground electrical wires
- Provide frequent stretch breaks
- Demonstrate how to safely work with irrigation equipment
- Provide appropriate training
- Train youth to call an adult if equipment malfunctions

Supervision

14-15 yrs	Nearly constant supervision progressing to intermittent
16+ yrs	Intermittent supervision progressing to periodic

Hazards



Electricity | Repetitive motion | Sharp edges or objects | Pinch or crush point | Chemicals

Protective Strategies



Non-skid shoes | Gloves | Eye protection (if needed) | Operator's manual | Handwashing



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