

# **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

Repetitive

motion

· Demonstrate how to safely work with irrigation equipment

Sharp edges

or objects

Pinch or

crush point

Provide appropriate training

Hazards

Electricity

· 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

#### Protective Strategies



Gloves



Operator's

manual

Eye protection

(if needed)





Non-skid

shoes

Chemicals