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Safety for Fish Farm Workers



This brochure accompanies the “Safety for Fish Farming” video and may be used to encourage discussion after reviewing the video. For a copy of the “Safety for Fish Farming” video, contact your local county Cooperative Extension Service office.

Electrical Safety

When working around power lines:

- Never open electrical boxes which appear damaged. Call an electrician.
- Never touch a downed power line.
- Before servicing aerators, make sure power has been disconnected.
- Stand to the right of a disconnect and use your left hand to engage the switch.
- Never rely on boots or rubber gloves to insulate you from farm voltages.
- Suspend all outdoor work during electrical storms. Wait at least 15 minutes before clearing.



Remember:

- High voltage power lines are extremely dangerous.
- At least 10 feet of clearance must be maintained from power distribution lines at all times. Call your local electrical supplier if a service disconnect is needed for safe loading.



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When using a tractor:

Tractors

- Tractors should have rollover protection structures (ROPS).
- Seat belts should be used with ROPS.
- Operate tractors safe distances from levee edges.
- Never start or “jump off” tractors in gear.
- Learn proper operation of all equipment before use.



Remember:

- If you are not familiar with the operation of a piece of equipment, say so. Become familiar with the basic farm levee layout during daylight hours, and practice using tractors and paddlewheel aerators with help from an experienced operator.
- Drive tractors at safe speeds, especially at night when visibility is reduced.

Power Takeoffs

When working around a power takeoff (PTO):

- Never step over a running PTO shaft.
- Keep all clothing and body parts away from PTO shafts.
- Repair damaged PTO shafts.



Remember:

- Pay attention to what you are doing at all times. Safety should be a priority every day.

Loading Fish and other jobs

When loading fish and doing similar jobs:



Remember:

- Deeply embedded spines may require medical attention.
- Loading doors and gates may pinch fingers.
- Truck side-rails or tops may be slippery.

- Always wear a hard hat in the loading area.
- Keep all workers in view when reeling in a seine.
- Use gloves when handling fish.
- Never kick or throw a catfish.
- Never place your hands between the seine and the push boat.
- Always turn off the boat motor before clearing a prop of netting.

Night Operations

When working at night:

- Inspect lights on truck and tractors daily.
- Report all equipment problems for proper maintenance.
- Stay in touch with other personnel at night.
- Come to work well rested and stay alert.
- Keep phones and radios free to report problems; don't chit chat.

Remember:

- Nighttime operations can be very dangerous. Take your time, not your life.
- If you are having problems, get help.

