

EXTENSION SERVICE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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IRRIGATE SAFELY



*in the last
five years
there have been
accidental deaths from drowning
on Washington farms*

17

One of the best ways to prevent drownings is to teach small children to stay away from water. But since they may forget, provide adequate safety devices, too.

Put sturdy fences that discourage climbing around reservoirs and ponds. Fence dangerous sections of canals and ditches, too—especially those that are deep and have steep sides. Build protective devices at culverts and inlets. Warning signs are a good idea, too, and may give some legal protection.

It's also a good idea to fence in a play area at the house for small children who are too young to swim.

*and
accidental
electrocutions*

7

Water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Never set sprinklers so the water hits power lines. Keep away from power lines when you are carrying or up-ending pipe.

Keep water from collecting near the pump. Make motor control boxes tamper proof and keep them locked. Put up fences and precautionary signs. Be sure that the pump and system are properly grounded. Have them inspected for safety regularly by your power supplier.

*and
other accidental deaths*

129

Prevent other accidents by painting hazardous areas of machinery with warning colors. Keep shields on power take-offs and dangerous belts. And never refuel a hot or running engine.

Avoid falls by keeping equipment picked up and put away where no one can trip over it. Keep floors clean and dry to prevent slips. And keep stairs clear of all articles and provide sturdy handrails.

*a total of
accidental deaths
in five years*

153

The number of deaths can be reduced. The 17 drownings on Washington farms in the last five years were far below the 29 in an earlier five-year period. But the figure is still too high.

A family safety program can help save even more lives. The three principles to follow are vigilance, education, and safeguards:

Vigilance—Common sense is the best safeguard. Keep your eyes open and learn to recognize a risk.

Education—Children, especially, need constant reminders about dangers.

Safeguards—Fences, locks, and warning signs will all help prevent accidents. They will also act as reminders for teaching safety and personal vigilance.

Make sure that someone in your family or on your farm is responsible for seeing that your irrigation and all the rest of your work is done safely.

This circular was revised by Everett H. Davis, Extension Agricultural Engineer, and Mel A. Hagood, Extension Irrigation and Water Use Specialist.

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