



FENCING PROCEDURES

Data available from the Consumer Product Safety Commission indicate more than 110,000 people were treated in hospitals for fence-related injuries during 2003. Of this total, approximately 43% were lacerations to fingers, hands, arms, and legs, 16% were contusions to feet and legs, 13% were fractures to hands, fingers, and arms, and 12% were sprains to ankles and knees. Fence-related injuries were mostly sustained by people running or falling into fences, climbing or jumping over fences, and falling from fences.

Precautions for Working in the Vicinity of Fences

- Always be aware of fences that are located in the vicinity of the work area.
- Avoid fence contact injuries by maintaining a safe working distance from fences.
- Never take shortcuts by attempting to climb or jump over fences. Use gates to access or depart fenced areas.
- Always close gates after entering or leaving a fenced area.
- Do not sit on fences or gates.

Precautions for Installing or Maintaining Fences

- Always wear long pants and sturdy shoes (i.e., no sneakers or sandals) and use leather gloves and safety glasses when installing or maintaining fences.
- Prior to starting a fencing task, inspect the work area to identify potential hazards and obstructions such as insect or animal nests, stumps or rocks, and holes or gullies.
- When working outdoors on fencing projects, wear the appropriate clothing and sun protection for the weather conditions and consume adequate amounts of fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Always maintain a safe distance when removing strapping from coiled fencing or wire.
- Use the appropriate tools for the fencing job such as high tensile wire cutters, crimping tools, pliers, and wire or fence stretchers.
- Never use vehicles (i.e., pickup trucks or ATVs) or farm machinery (i.e., tractors) to tighten wire or fence.
- Practice safe lifting methods to prevent back and shoulder injuries.
- Use extra caution when cutting wire or fence under tension.
- Always use a carpenter's apron to carry nails or fence staples.
- When tightening wire, stand on the far side of fence posts to maintain a protective barrier from potential wire breakage and whip lash.
- Take frequent breaks when performing strenuous tasks such as post hole digging, carrying heavy loads of wire or fencing, or tightening wire or fencing. Do not overtire yourself.

Job Steps

- Obtain company or land owner requirements
- Contact 811 and collect necessary documentation
- Complete dig permit
- Attend Kick Off meeting
- Complete JSA and other necessary permits
- Remove old fence or fence section, trash, and other debris
- Construct new fence or fence sections following using these guidelines
 - Follow company or land owner requirements
 - Measure and mark gate locations
 - Construct H Bracing at:
 - Corners
 - Gates
 - Long fence sections (500 feet or more)
 - Significant elevation changes or terrain contour
 - Fence intersections
- Attach or construct gates to company or land owner requirements
- Remove tools and equipment
- Remove trash and construction debris
- Rake or re-level work area ruts or dirt piles
- Notify E&B Supervisor so that other reclamation activities can be completed
- Notify E&B Supervisor, company representative or land owner for final inspection
- Make corrections if necessary

When working around others, always ensure that clear communication is used via radio or telephone, or in person.

Never take any action without alerting others, as such could result in serious harm or accident. Always work in a calm orderly fashion as to not create an unsafe environment. Be conscious of your surroundings and use your **STOP WORK AUTHORITY** when necessary.

I _____ have read and understand the **E&B Fencing Procedures**

Updated: May 11, 2015.

I understand that I am required to follow these procedures. I also understand that my failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, termination and or increased personal liability.

Employee Signature

Date

Supervisor Signature

Date