

A black and white photograph of a young boy with short hair, wearing a dark t-shirt and a watch, holding a large, thick irrigation pipe. He is looking off to the side with a focused expression. The background shows a field of crops under a clear sky.

# Look Before You Lift!

Irrigation pipe plays a crucial role on most modern-day farms: it delivers life-giving water. Electric power lines carry the energy so vital to the everyday operation of a farm. These two valuable farm servants must never come into contact with one another.

Aluminum irrigation pipe is an excellent conductor of electric current. If a pipe touches a power line, the person holding the pipe is subject to a potentially fatal injury.

When it comes time to clean, assemble or disassemble your irrigation line, take special care to survey your working area. Although electric distribution lines are usually strung with excellent overhead clearance, remember you are working with unusually long pieces of metal pipe. Look overhead and note electric lines within reach of the long pipes.

When lifting and transporting the pipe sections, keep clear of the power lines. If possible, store irrigation pipe in an open area, well away from power lines.

The natural tendency is to store pipes along the perimeter of a field, but that generally is where power lines are strung.