



July 27, 2004

**OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK210-4-12**

**SUBJECT:** ENG – Irrigation System Safety

**Purpose:** To remind offices of the hazards associated with irrigation systems.

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2004

Many offices are currently or will in the near future be working on or around irrigation systems, primarily center pivots. Most of these systems operate with or near some type of electricity. It is extremely important for employees working with these systems to be aware of the potential dangers and to know how to safely check a system before working on it.

The July issue of the NRCS Safety News Gram (Volume 2, Number 1) explains many of the potential hazards employees should look out for. It also describes good work habits that must be employed in order to avoid a potential deadly incident. I strongly encourage anyone working with any type of irrigation system to review the Safety News Gram.

The Safety News Gram also describes a method of checking the metal structure of an irrigation system to determine if it is safe to touch. This method uses a voltmeter to check for stray voltage in the system. While the system is in operation, one lead of the voltmeter is connected to a metal component of the irrigation system and the other is stuck into the soil. If the reading is 5 volts or less, the system should be safe to work on. If the reading is higher than 5 volts, notify the operator and do not touch any part of the system.

The engineering staff has evaluated various voltmeters suitable to meet our needs and purchases are being made for the offices listed below. Listed below are offices that have been identified as needing the voltmeters. Offices not listed that believe they have a need and will use a voltmeter on a regular basis, may request one from the engineering staff through their OA. Please include a justification of need with the request.

- |           |            |          |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Altus     | Arnett     | Anadarko |
| Beaver    | Boise City | Buffalo  |
| Cordell   | Frederick  | Guymon   |
| Hollis    | Muskogee   | Woodward |
| All TSO's |            |          |

/s/ John Glover acting for

M. DARREL DOMINICK  
State Conservationist

DIST: AE