

SAFETY TIPS FOR FENCING

Fencing is hands-on and physical work. Like many tasks done around the farm or ranch, fencing is where taking safety precautions not only keeps humans safe but also the animals they care for. This is the reason farmers and ranchers must discuss safety before starting any fencing project.

A little common sense and the right tools go a long way. Use the proper tools for the job, a good pair of fencing pliers / wire cutters and PPE make safe and quick work of many fencing tasks. Safety glasses, leather work gloves, quality pliers, work boots – don't begin a fencing project without these safety essentials.



- **Safety glasses:** Wire is stiff and sharp. Installers are always tying knots, splicing and cutting. Protect your eyes with appropriate safety glasses.
- **Work gloves:** Fencing is hands-on work. Protect your hands with gloves made of leather or other cut-resistant material.
- **Protective boots:** Posts and rolls of fencing wire are heavy, as are many of the tools used in fencing. Protect your feet with heavy-duty hard-toe work boots.
- **Back safety:** Fencing requires some heavy lifting. Don't go it alone. Work with a partner to lighten the load. (And lift with your legs, not your back.)
- **Weather:** Be cautious of lightning and other weather concerns in the area. Be prepared if unexpected weather rolls in.
- **Manual post pounder:**
 - Ensure the operator maintains a stable standing position with feet as far apart as the width of their shoulders. Keep body weight balanced.
 - Never operate the post pounder unless both feet are in contact with stable ground; never stand on a ladder, chair, trailer, pickup tray, or any other surface other than stable ground.
 - Stand firmly and always hold the post pounder with both hands.
 - Ensure equipment handles are free from grease and oil.
- **Mechanical post pounder:**
 - Sudden or unexpected movement of the machine may occur during operation, which can result in injury to the operator and/or damage to the machine.
 - Do not start the engine while the post pounder is lying on the ground; start only when the pounder is vertical position.
 - Never allow children or persons who have not read the operating instructions to operate the machine.
 - Never let your post pounder run unattended.