



Lead, Serve, Support

April 16, 2018

April Showers Bring May Flowers... Lush Green Grass... And the Dreaded Chore of Mowing the Lawn!

But Be Careful. Don't Let a Perfect Lawn Come at an Exorbitant Price!

More than 230,000 people are treated for injuries involving lawn and garden tools and equipment EVERY year, according to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Practice These Lawn Mower Safety Tips:

DRESS APPROPRIATELY - Wear:

- Long pants & close-fitting clothing.
- Boots or sturdy shoes with good traction.
- Impact resistant safety glasses or goggles.
- Ear plugs or ear muffs. Gas powered mowers can range from 90-105 decibels (dB). You should always wear hearing protection whenever noise levels \geq 85 dB.
- Sun protection - a hat, long sleeved shirt, & sunscreen.



PREPARE THE AREA -

- Pick up items which could be thrown by the blade(s), i.e., sticks, rocks, toys, sporting equipment, etc. *This is a very important step!* Last week an employee in one of our Districts was injured while working at their desk by a rock thrown by a lawn mower. The rock came through a window, hitting the employee in the head.
- Look for Immovable objects, i.e., pipes, partially buried rocks, etc.
- Check for bystanders, children, pets, & vehicles which could be hit by items thrown by the mower. If others are using/playing in the area, consider returning to mow the area when it's not unoccupied or being used by others.

PREPARE, INSPECT, AND TEST THE MOWER -

- Make sure all protective guards and deflectors are in place and the collection bag is empty.
- Fill the tank with gasoline & wipe up any spills. Never fuel a mower that has been operating & is hot. A hot muffler can ignite gasoline vapors.
- Make sure the transmission is out of gear & blade clutch is disengaged BEFORE starting the engine.
- Test drive the mower to become familiar with it BEFORE engaging the mower blade.

USE SAFE MOWING TECHNIQUES -

- Read, understand, & follow the safety instructions on the mower & in the manual(s) before starting.
- Avoid mowing wet grass. It can clog the discharge chute; cause the engine to falter; or the mower or operator to slip, increasing the risk of injury.
- Use extreme caution on inclines. Always drive riding mowers up & down slopes and push walk-behind mowers across slopes.
- If the mower is equipped with a seatbelt, WEAR it!
- Disengage the mower blade when on pavement, sidewalks, or gravel lanes.
- Always look down and behind before and while moving backwards.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.
- Disconnect the spark plug before working on the mower to prevent accidental start up.
- Never put your hands or feet near rotating parts, under the machine, or into the discharge chute.

And, NEVER allow anyone to ride as a passenger on a riding lawn mower or tractor!

SAFETY MATTERS