

233rd Safety Gram



Lawn Mower Safety

As summer approaches, many families spend time beautifying their lawns. While lawnmowers are a much-needed tool, they can pose a serious threat to the health and safety if precautions aren't taken.

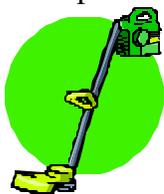
Lawn Mower hazards

The mower is a cutting machine designed to trim grass but has the potential to cut anything that is placed in its path. The cutting edge of the mower blade can travel at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour. This can turn an ordinary item into a deadly missile. Even a dull blade at that speed can slice fingers and toes that get in its way. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 57,000 operators and bystanders require medical treatment each year for mower-related injuries.



10 Safe Mowing Practices

1. *Prepare lawn for mowing.* Every time before you mow, check your lawn for items such as sticks, rocks, toys, sports equipment, dog bones, wire, and equipment parts.
2. *Handle fuel with care.* Always use care when filling the tank with gasoline, wipe up spills after filling and never fill the tank on a mower that has been operating and is hot. A hot muffler can ignite the gasoline vapors. When storing gasoline for your lawnmower, store only what is needed and use an approved flammable-liquids storage container.
3. *Wear appropriate clothes.* Close-fitting clothes are less likely to get caught on controls or moving parts. Long pants and sturdy leather shoes protect you from flying sticks, stones, or other items not caught by the rear guard.
4. *Use hearing protection and face/eye shield if using edger's or weed whackers.*
5. *Make sure other people, especially children, are out of the area.*
6. *Never point the discharge chute at anyone.* Objects flying from the chute cause most injuries to people.
7. *Do not mow wet grass.* Wet grass is slippery and the operator can lose footing, slip under the mower, or allow the mower to roll backwards.
8. *Use care on inclines.* Some slopes are too steep to mow safely, so use good judgment. Push walk-behind mowers **across** slopes and drive riding mowers **up and down** slopes.
9. *Never leave a running mower unattended.* When you leave the operator's position the mower should be turned off.
10. *Disconnect spark plug to service.* Disconnect the spark plug when you work on the mower prevents the engine from accidentally being started.



"Safe Gardening tips from your BSB Safety Office"
YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION TO SAFETY

