

CARETAKER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Ref. Code: G-C-9

MAINTAINING LAWNS		
Activity	Hazard Identification	Required Precautions
1. Driving to and from work site.	1. Motor vehicle accident; striking pedestrians, bicyclists, and persons using rollerblades.	1. Wear prescription lenses, if required, and seatbelt. Verify that all equipment on vehicle is secured properly. Stay alert for pedestrians, bicyclists, and persons using rollerblades.
2. Sharpening blades on mowers and tractors using electric grinder.	2a. Motor could start accidentally on push mower, causing severe injuries to worker. 2b. Electric shock; electrocution.	2a. Before beginning work, pull off spark plug wire to ensure that motor does not kick over. 2b. Inspect cord before use. Keep power cord away from work area. Plug tools into GFCI-protected outlet. Do not use electric tools if work area is wet.
	2c. Severe cuts and abrasions.	2c. Wear gloves. Handle blades carefully.
	2d. Burns from hot blades.	2d. Wear gloves.
	2e. Injury from flying sparks and metal chips; debris embedded in eyes.	2e. Wear safety glasses. Verify that safety shield is in place.
3. Greasing fittings of mowers and tractors.	3. Grease or debris on skin or in eyes.	3. Wear gloves and safety glasses.
4. Blowing off mower.	4. Debris, dust, and grass clippings in eyes.	4. Wear safety glasses. Stand back from blower while using.
5. Using gas-powered push mower.	5a. Injury from flying stones or other debris. 5b. Slipping/falling on hills.	5a. Precheck area for trash and other hazards. Check mower regularly to verify that shields are in good condition. Wear long pants and safety glasses. 5b. Verify that all safety features on mower are working properly. Walk carefully. If you do fall, let go of mower to avoid injuries.

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	5c. Mower flipping over.	5c. Do not mow when ground is wet. Wear shoes with good traction and walk carefully.
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	5d. Blade coming loose from mower and flying off, causing severe injury to worker or bystander.	5d. Before mowing lawn, check blade to verify that it is installed properly.
6. Using weed eater.	6a. Injury from flying debris; debris in eyes; inhalation of debris. 6b. Severe cuts. 6c. Loss of hearing.	6a. Precheck area for trash and other safety hazards. Wear long pants, safety shoes, safety glasses, and dust mask or face mask. 6b. Wear long pants. 6c. Wear ear protection.
7. Using riding mower and pull-behind trailer.	7a. Severe cuts and lacerations. 7b. Getting struck by low branches or other obstacles. 7c. Injury from flying debris. 7d. Riding mower could flip over. 7e. Loss of hearing. 7f. Traffic accident while driving equipment on roads and highways. 7g. Injuries to pedestrians from flying stones or other debris.	7a. Before beginning work, verify that all safety features are working properly. 7b. Stay alert for low branches and other obstacles. 7c. Precheck area for trash and other safety hazards before mowing. 7d. Always mow sideways on hills. Do not mow on hills when ground is wet. 7e. Wear ear protection. 7f. Wear prescription lenses if required. Verify that trailer is securely attached to vehicle. Stay alert for pedestrians and bicyclists. 7g. Ask pedestrians to move out of work area. Verify that shields work properly. Mow high traffic areas early in the morning.
8. Using edger.	8a. Injury from flying debris. 8b. Loss of hearing.	8a. Precheck area for debris before using edger. Verify that shield and other safety equipment are working properly. Wear long pants, safety shoes, safety glasses, and dust mask or face shield. 8b. Wear ear protection.

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9. Using Roundup herbicide.	9. Contact with skin and eyes.	9. Wear safety glasses, long pants, long rubber gloves, and rubber boots. Verify that sprayer does not leak and that hose is in good condition. After using Roundup, make sure hose is empty and pressure is relieved. Wash thoroughly after using chemicals.
10. Seeding lawns using manual seeder.	10. Seed flying into eyes.	10. Wear eye protection.
11. Seeding with hand-held seeder.	11a. Seed flying into eyes. 11b. Slipping and falling when seeding on a hill.	11a. Wear eye protection. 11b. Walk carefully to maintain footing.
12. Using slice seeder or aerator (both pulled behind tractor).	12a. Getting struck by low branches or other obstacles. 12b. Injury from flying debris. 12c. Loss of hearing.	12a. Stay alert for low branches and other obstacles. 12b. Precheck area for trash and other safety hazards before mowing. 12c. Wear ear protection.
	12d. Traffic accident while driving equipment on roads and highways.	12d. Wear prescription lenses if required. Verify that tractor is securely attached to vehicle. Stay alert for pedestrians and bicyclists.
13. Working outdoors in hot and/or sunny conditions.	13a. Sunburn; skin cancer. 13b. Heatstroke.	13a. Wear hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses. 13b. Try to mow lawns when they are in the shade. Wear proper clothing. Drink plenty of fluids. Take frequent breaks as needed.
14. Working in area of pedestrian traffic.	14. Injuries to pedestrians from flying debris or from equipment.	14. Move people off lawns before beginning work. Face chute of mower in opposite direction of pedestrians. When possible, wait until pedestrians pass by.
15. Loading/unloading walk-behind mower.	15. Mower falling off ramp; losing balance and tripping.	15. Load mower onto trailer instead.

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