

GROUND/MOVERS

HORTICULTURIST

Ref. Code: G-H-12

MOWING LAWNS		
Activity	Hazard Identification	Required Precautions
1. Driving to and from work site.	1. Motor vehicle accident; striking pedestrians, bicyclists, or 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. Putting push mower in and removing it from truck.	2a. Back strain; overexertion.	2a. Know your weight lifting capacity and get help if needed. Lift using leg muscles. Keep back straight. Always use two people to load and remove mower from truck.
	2b. Gas spilling from mower.	2b. Keep mower upright to avoid spilling gas.
	2c. Mower moving in back of truck.	2c. Secure mower in back of truck with rope or bungee cord.
	2d. Cuts and severe lacerations from blades and glass.	2d. Wear gloves. Handle blades and mower carefully.
3. Using gas-powered push mower.	3a. Splashed with gas when filling tank.	3a. Wear safety glasses. Pour slowly to avoid splashing.
	3b. Pulling mower over sideways; back strain; pulling out cord and knocking out eye; falling.	3b. Hold down mower with foot when pulling start cord. Do not pull cord too hard. Pull up straight on cord.
	3c. Struck by dirt, stones, and other debris; debris in eyes.	3c. Wear long pants and safety glasses. Make sure safety shield is functioning properly. Precheck area for debris, stones, etc. Wear safety shoes.
	3d. Struck by low branches or other obstacles.	3d. Stay alert for low branches and other obstacles.
	3e. Sliding on hills; mower flipping over.	3e. Use weed whacker on very steep hills. Do not mow hills when wet. Wear steel-toed shoes. If you do fall, let go of the mower to avoid injuries. Make sure all safety features on mower are working properly.
	3f. Blisters.	3f. Wear gloves.

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	3g. Slipping; backing mower over feet.	3g. Wear safety shoes. Avoid cutting on hills when grass is wet. Do not alter safety devices on mower.
	3h. Cut when removing debris buildup from mower; spilling gas.	3h. Turn off mower before cleaning out blades. Lift body of mower with handles on the ground. Do not turn mower over on its side.
	3i. Blade coming loose and coming off.	3i. Verify that blade is properly installed. If you hear a “clang” of other noise when mowing, turn off the mower and check blade to verify that it remains securely attached.
	3j. Loss of hearing.	3j. Wear ear protection.
4. Using riding mower (Toro tractor).	4a. Getting jarred; falling off mower, esp. when hitting a hole or other obstacle.	4a. Wear safety belt if provided. Do not go excessively fast. Be aware of hazards in the area.
	4b. Dust and debris in eyes; struck by debris.	4b. Wear safety glasses. Survey work area for debris before mowing.
	4c. Loss of hearing.	4c. Wear ear protection.
	4d. Struck by low branches or other obstacles.	4d. Stay alert for low branches and other obstacles.
	4e. Riding mower could flip over.	4e. Mow sideways on hills. Do not mow on hills when wet.
	4f. Splashed with gas when adding fuel.	4f. Wear safety glasses. Pour slowly to avoid splashing.
	4g. Cramps; fatigue; back strain.	4g. Take breaks as needed to stretch out.
	4h. Severe cuts and lacerations when cleaning blades.	4h. Wear gloves. Turn off mower before attempting to clean deck.
	4i. Mechanical failure causing injury to operator; struck by mower parts.	4i. Keep deck well greased.

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5. Working in area of pedestrian traffic.	5. Debris shooting out at pedestrians; injuries to pedestrians.	5. Precheck area for debris. Verify that shields work properly. Aim chute away from pedestrians. Be cautious when backing up. Mow high traffic area early in the morning.
6. Working in area of motor vehicle traffic.	6. Struck by motor vehicle; shooting debris at vehicles and causing accident.	6. Precheck area for debris. Verify that shields work properly. Aim chute away from traffic. Mow high traffic areas early in the morning.
7. Using weed whacker.	7a. Splashed by or spilling gas or oil when filling tank.	7a. Wear safety glasses. Pour slowly to avoid splashing. Do not overfill.
	7b. Blisters.	7b. Lay weed whacker on a flat surface and hold it when pulling cord. Wear gloves.
	7c. Struck by flying debris.	7c. Wear long pants, safety glasses, dust mask, leather gloves, and safety shoes. Precheck area for debris. Verify that shield works properly.
	7d. Loss of hearing.	7d. Wear ear protection.
	7e. Tripping.	7e. Watch for holes, stumps, and other hazards. Avoid steep banks when grass is wet.
	7f. Contact with poison ivy, oak, or sumac.	7f. Wear long sleeves. Wash thoroughly with appropriate cleanser after exposure to poison plants.
8. Working in extremely hot/sunny weather.	8a. Sunburn; skin cancer.	8a. Wear sunblock, sunglasses, and a hat. Try to mow area when it is in the shade.
	8b. Heat stroke.	8b. Drink plenty of fluids. Wear proper clothing. Take breaks as needed in cooler area.
9. Blowing off mower.	9. Debris in eyes.	9. Wear safety glasses. Stand back from blower.