

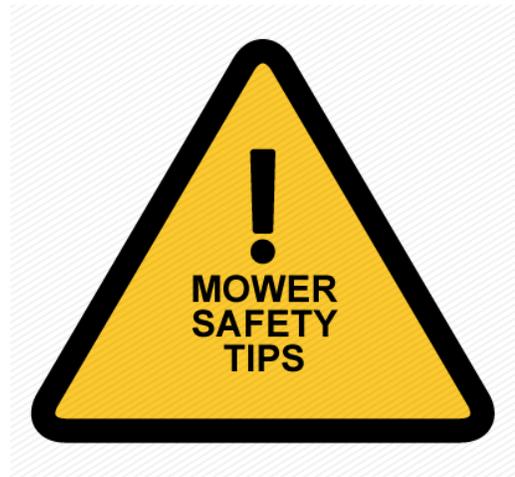
Additional Safety Tips for Lawn Care Employees

Landscaping and lawn care workers are at risk of injury from a wide variety of potential hazards. These include exposure to chemicals, machinery, noise and weather related hazards. Now would be a good time to pull your employees together around the “toolbox” and review your safety procedures.



Lawn Mower Safety

- Check the property prior to mowing. Remove any debris and obstructions including toys, limbs, rocks, wire, or glass. Locate all sprinkler heads, exposed electrical wire or cords, tree stumps, or exposed roots and pipes.
- Keep hands and feet away from the blade area while the mower is running.
- Never reach underneath or into the discharge chute to clear away grass or other obstructions when the blades are turning.
- Never bypass the engine kill handle or remove shields when mowing.
- Mow back and forth along the side of a steep hill, never across it.
- Don't direct the discharge chute in the direction of bystanders.
- Wear boots or shoes with good traction to avoid slipping and falling.
- Be careful when refueling a hot engine. Use a funnel to avoid spilling fuel. Clean up any fuel spills immediately.
- Never smoke while servicing, operating, and refueling a mower.
- Wear proper protection against flying debris and noise (long pants, hard shoes, safety glasses, and ear plugs)
- Turn the power off and disconnect the spark plug wire from the spark plug before cleaning, inspecting, adjusting, or repairing the cutting blade.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.



Trimmers, Edgers and Blowers

- Remove debris such as glass, limbs, rocks, and trash that could possibly become a projectile before trimming.
- Watch out for exposed electrical wires, communication lines, and extension cords that could be damaged by the trimmer string or edger blade.
- Don't remove protective guards and string guides.
- Monitor the string length. Automatic-feed and bump-feed trimmers may let out more string than you think; this might cause the string to strike you unexpectedly.



- Wear appropriate protective clothing and equipment such as long-pants, long-sleeve shirts, gloves, hard boots, goggles or safety glasses, and ear plugs.
- With electric trimmers and edgers inspect all extension cords for cuts, nicks, scrapes, and exposed wire that could pose an electrical hazard. Replace damaged cords immediately.
- Unplug electric trimmers and edgers and turn off gas-powered trimmers and edgers before inspecting, cleaning, adjusting, or replacing string.
- Don't start an edger if the blade is touching the ground. It could move unpredictably and possibly contact your feet and legs.
- When using a blower be aware of pedestrians and others in the area. Don't direct the blower toward bystanders.

Using Lawn Chemicals

- Make sure there are no children and animals in or near the application area.
- Avoid exposure to skin, eyes and nose during and after application.
- If spraying near a home make sure all doors and window to the house are closed.
- Remove animal water and feed containers, and protect bird baths and fish from chemical exposure.
- Avoid over-irrigating exposed area; pesticides may be washed away or become concentrated in standing water puddles.
- Use only the recommended amount; more chemical than prescribed will not do a better job.

Other Potential Hazards

- Slips, trips and falls
- Muscle strains and pulls. Make sure heavy loads are lifted properly.
- Cuts and abrasions
- Exposure to extreme heat. Be mindful of heat stroke and sunburn. Wear sunscreen, hats and lightweight long pants and long sleeve shirts.
- Excessive noise levels. Use hearing protection when operating loud equipment.