

Each year millions of people mow great swatches of grass and weeds week after week without so much as a stubbed toe. However, there will be approximately 70,000 injuries serious enough for an emergency room visit. The majority of mowing incidents are the result of:

- Contact with the rotating blade
- Propelled objects
- Rider mowers overturning
- Running over an individual

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.

PENN STATE AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Top 10 Suggestions For Lawnmower Safety

Agricultural & Biological Engineering
246 Agricultural Engineering Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-7685

www.agsafety.psu.edu



Be
Safe



Mow
Smart



1

Children younger than 12 years of age should not operate large ride-on mowers.

2

Protect everyone from flying debris or being run over:

- Make sure area is clear of people, especially children
- Clear the area of any sticks, rocks, toys or other debris.



3

Know the lay of the land! Check for dips, holes and other landscape obstacles.

4

Protect eyes, hearing, and feet.

- Wear **Safety glasses or goggles.**
- Use hearing protection devices.
- Wear sturdy shoes rather than athletic shoes or sandals.
- Long pants and gloves are recommended.



5

Beware of the blades!

- An adult should make adjustments to the mowing height before mowing.
- Make sure the blades have stopped before removing the grass catcher.

6

Machines are not toys!

- **One seat. One rider. NO exceptions.**

7

Operate at the right speed and the right direction.

- **Slower is safer!**
- **Mow only in forward.**
- Riding mowers should move up or down a slope.
- Push mowers should move across a slope.
- Always check behind you for children and others before backing up.

8

If you are doing ANYTHING but mowing:

- Disengage the blades and/or stop the engine.
- Turn off the mower if you leave it for any reason.
- Try to use a mower that disengages the blade or shuts off the engine if the handle is released.

9

Stay aware of the mower's discharge area:

- Stop the mower if anyone enters the area.



10

Wait at least two minutes for the engine to cool if you need to refuel.

Finally, if using a riding mower on a slope, make sure you understand the special considerations and safe practices that can be found in the operator's manual and online.