

Lawn care safety

Introduction:

There are several different lawn care safety tips to remember when working outside this summer.

Walk-behind lawn movers

- Walk the lawn before you mow. Look for rocks, sticks and other debris that could dislodge from the mower causing an injury.
- Wear long pants while mowing the lawn even when it is hot outside. Pants can protect your legs from flying debris.
- Always wear shoes. Your feet can be seriously injured if you don't have shoes on.
- Inspect your lawn mower with the engine off.
- Avoid pulling the mower backwards towards your feet. If possible always push the mower forward.

Ride-along mowers:

- Never ride with a passenger.
- Don't fill the gas tank while engine is running.
- To prevent tip over, only mow on gentle slopes. For extreme slopes use a walk-behind mower and walk across the face of the slope.

Weed whips:

- Use the weed whip for only grass and weeds. The weed whip is not built for shrubbery.
- Keep a firm balance when operating the weed whip. Plant two feet on the ground, and keep the whip at a adequate distance from your feet.

- Always wear eye protection when weed whipping. Dust, rocks, and other objects may be thrown in your face and eyes by the whip.

- Be sure to wear long pants to prevent debris from striking your legs.

Hedge trimmers:

- If you have an electrical hedge trimmer, be sure the extension cord is away from the operating blade when trimming,
- The extension cord can become a trip hazard, know your surroundings when using the trimmer.
- Don't operate the equipment in the rain, with the sprinkler on, or if the hose is on.

General yard work tips:

- Hydrate yourself before, during and after you work in the yard.
- If it's raining, or the grass is wet wait to do yard work until the yard dries.

Summary:

Safety should be considered both on and off of the job. Bring safety home this summer when you are working in your yard. Set an example for your kids and others to have safety on their mind at all times when operating lawn care equipment.