

Job Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 198: Lawnmower Operations

Introduction: A lawnmower is a grass cutting machine either pushed or self-propelled, controlled by an operator walking behind the unit. Common mowing accidents include cuts, lacerations, or amputations from whirling mower blades, bruises or broken bones from flying projectiles, burns from hot equipment parts, electrical shock from faulty grounding or defective electrical cords (electric mowers), and back strain from improper equipment usage.

- **Do not** operate, lubricate, or provide maintenance of any equipment until trained in all mower procedures.
- **Make sure** that all guards are in place and in good condition. Always report to the supervisor any equipment or safeguard which is found defective.
- **Never** remove a guard except for authorized maintenance purposes. The guard must be replaced before the machine is returned to operation.

Follow these basic guidelines to ensure optimum safety:

- Read the manufacturer's manual for the mower.
- Use the right personal protective equipment for the job.

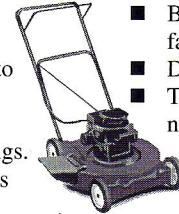
Wear personal protection equipment (PPE), as necessary:

- Eye protection: safety glasses with side shields or goggles
- Hearing protection: ear plugs or ear muffs
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots with good traction; do not wear canvas-type shoes.
- Safety work gloves



- Inspect the mower and attachments before each use.
- Know how to control and stop the equipment quickly.

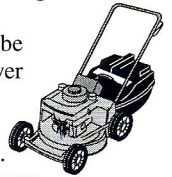
- Dust mask in dry areas
- Long pants
- Hat; apply sunscreen to exposed areas



- Be careful to avoid fatigue and heat stress
- Drink plenty of water
- Take breaks as necessary

Mower Safety: To avoid injury with power mower equipment, you must pay close attention to your surroundings.

- **Always** conduct a premowing inspection of the lawn and remove any debris, rocks, limbs, or other items that could become a projectile. Look for concealed hazards such as holes or sprinkler heads.
- **Make sure** all positions of the operating controls are clearly identified. Warning and caution labels must be readable. Replace when necessary.
- **Do not** bypass the safety device that stops the blade when releasing the grip on the handle. Keep hands and feet away from all moving parts.
- **Fill** the tank with gas before beginning work. Avoid spills, leaks, or overflows. Clean up immediately. Keep the gas cap on whenever the engine is running. Shut off the engine before refueling. Allow hot equipment to cool before refueling. Do not smoke when operating and refueling.
- **Do not** refuel the mower indoors. Do not run the engine in a closed area where carbon monoxide can collect. Replace loud or faulty mufflers.
- **Collection bags** should be securely connected to prevent flying debris. All parts should be checked for tight connections. The discharge of material must not be directed at another person. Use safe lifting techniques, when emptying the grass bag, to avoid back problems.
- **Slow down** when turning and when working on slopes. Mow across slopes rather than up and down slopes. A mower must be moved across the face of a slope of more than 17 degrees, never up and down, except by use of a rope to raise and lower the mower while standing at the top of the slope. Always look behind you before backing. Keep hands and feet away from moving blades.
- **If you hit a large rock**, stop the mower and inspect the blades and shaft. Replace damaged blades.
- **Work slowly** and patiently when mowing tall grass or tough weeds. Forcing the mower may cause repeated clogs and engine stalls.
- **Never** leave a running mower unattended. If you stop momentarily, cut the throttle to idle and make sure the mower will not roll away.
- **Mowers** must not be left running, unattended, if the operator is beyond vision or more than 25 feet away from the equipment.
- **Shut off** the engine before unclogging, servicing, or adjusting the mower and before removing the grassbag. For added protection, remove the ignition wire before working on the machine. The spark plug should be disconnected before servicing or making an adjustment.
- **An engine or motor governor adjustment** must not be made or changed to create an overspeed condition.



Self Propelled: The operator must maintain direct control of a self-propelled, walk behind mower. The operator must adjust the ground speed to their gait for proper control. The drive mechanism of self-propelled mowers must be disengaged before starting a motor or engine.

Electric mowers: Electric mowers should be properly grounded, with properly insulated and rated electrical cords. Electrical equipment should not be used in wet conditions to avoid the risk of electrocution. Connect electrical power equipment to ground fault interrupted circuits.

- **Electric mowers**, without approved double insulation and powered by 110 volts or more, must be connected to a grounded service outlet. Unless equipment is an approved double insulated device, its cord and any extension cords are required to be of 3-wire grounded type and of a contrasting color to the foliage such as, but not limited to, orange or yellow. Shut off and disconnect when cleaning, repairing, or adjusting.
- **Inspect** the cord for cuts, frays, defects, or other damage. Replace immediately. Take care not to accidentally cut the cord while mowing.

Conclusion: Always wear the proper personal protective equipment. Utilize these safety guidelines to ensure safe lawnmower operations.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.