



# Lawn Mower Safety

A power lawn mower can be dangerous and cause serious injuries. A rotary mower blade whirls at 2,000 or 4,000 revolutions per minute. Another way to think about this is that the blade is moving at 100 to 200 miles per hour! For safety reasons, it is important to know how to quickly disengage the clutch and stop the engine.

## Lawn Mower Safety Tips:

- Read the operator's manual before you begin.
- Before mowing, remove debris from lawn.
- Wear protective, close fitting clothing.
- Start mower from a firm stance with feet in safe position.
- Take self-propelled mowers out of gear BEFORE starting.
- Keep both feet on footrests on riding mower.
- Keep all guards and safety shields in place.
- Never fill the gasoline tank on the mower if the engine is hot.
- Store gasoline in an approved, properly labeled container.
- Turn off the motor before dismounting or removing debris.
- Disconnect the spark or electric plug before repairing mower.
- Never use an electric mower on wet grass.
- Complete routine maintenance.
- No extra riders on self-propelled mowers.

## Moving Hazards: Be Aware!

- A mower can tip over easily, especially when mowing on a slope.
- Push the mower AWAY from the body during a fall.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.
- Take rest periods as needed.
- Debris can fly from the mower, so make sure the mowing area is clear of people and animals.



## Proper Mowing Directions:

- When mowing on a slope (on a riding mower), you should mow DOWN the slope.
- When mowing on a slope (with a push mower), you should mow ACROSS the slope.

## Personal Protective Equipment:

- Always wear sturdy shoes. Do not wear flip flops or sandals.
- Long pants and long sleeved shirts are best. This is especially important if you have skin reactions to grass.
  - Be aware of the weather. Consider heat and humidity when you dress for mowing.
- Safety glasses are important. Grass can get in your eyes and cause irritation. In some situations, larger pieces of debris can become an eye hazard.
- Always wear ear protection when you are mowing or using other loud equipment.