



TechneTrain, Inc

# OSHA Compliance Monthly

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is the employer's responsibility to ensure that employees are safe on the job.

Many precautions to ensure the safety of your employees must be taken BEFORE starting the job.

- Make sure that your workers have the correct equipment for the job at hand. If an area is too sloped, or the ground is too uneven to operate the mower safely, a weed eater or push mower should be used.
- Ensure that employees understand the throwing capabilities of the equipment being used, and that the area is clear of anything that the mower might fling.
- Do NOT permit removal of any equipment shields and guards that are installed on the equipment.
- Determine that the mower is in sound mechanical condition on an on-going basis.
- Make sure that employees wear the proper clothing and protective equipment. This includes heavy-duty shoes, long pants and sleeves, safety glasses with impact-resistant lenses, and hearing protection. Loose clothing and jewelry that could get caught in the machinery should be avoided.



## Common Sense Tips for Lawnmower Safety

Lawnmowers are a key component of the landscaping industry. Unfortunately, they are also a main source of accidents and injuries within the industry. While many of these are minor accidents that involve being burned or bruised, the more severe ones can result in the loss of a limb or even a life. Common causes for these accidents include driving too fast, mowing on uneven ground, using a mower that has not been mechanically maintained, and pushing a mower beyond safe limits. Fortunately, most hazards can be avoided by taking common sense precautions. Remember that

- The tank should always be filled **BEFORE** starting the job, outside, in an open area, away from cigarettes or other heat sources. Employees should be instructed to **NEVER** refuel a hot motor.
- Employees should not mow under conditions when traction or stability is questionable.
- Make sure that workers understand how the mower operates.
- Prepare the machine before use. Take available measures to increase stability, steering, and traction. Make sure that the mower is in neutral before starting it.

After pre-work precautions have been taken, there are additional common sense guidelines for safety while mowing.

- Employees should be instructed to **NEVER** take passengers on mowing equipment, and to always look behind them before backing.
- Employees must be trained on safe mowing on sloped or uneven ground. With a riding mower, they should mow up and down the slope. With a walk-behind mower, they should mow across the face of the slope. They should mow slowly enough to be able to see and react to hazards in their path. They should **NEVER** try to stabilize a riding mower by putting their foot on the ground.
- Adjustments to any mechanism of the equipment should **NEVER** be made while the mower is running.

- Employees should be trained on precautions to take when dismounting the mower. The PTO should be disengaged, the brake engaged, the engine stopped, and all parts stopped before dismounting.
- When driving between mowing jobs, crossing a road, path or sidewalk, or when not using the mower, the employee should disengage the PTO to stop the mower blade.

By properly maintaining your equipment, by following all required OSHA standards, and by ensuring that your employees use these common sense safety guidelines, you will reduce your risk of injury substantially. Have a safe summer of mowing!

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Please do not hesitate to call with any questions.

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