

# The 101 DAYS OF SUMMER



## Toolbox Talk Lesson Plan

### Lawn Care Equipment

Mowers are the most common type of lawn care equipment. To avoid injury with power mower equipment, you must pay close attention to your surroundings. Approximately **70 percent of all lawn mower accidents are caused by blade contact**. A person can come in contact with the blade by slipping under the mower deck, or reaching into the discharge chute. Since the blade moves at high speed and has two cutting edges, an object in line with the blade for only one second can be struck as many as 120 times. Follow these guidelines for lawn mower safety:

- Only qualified / authorized operators should use equipment.
- Conduct a pre-mowing 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.
- Wear eye protection and hearing protection as needed.
- Fill the tank with gas before beginning work. By filling the tank initially, you can minimize having to fill the tank later when it is hot. Transport gasoline only in approved safety cans.
- Replace loud or faulty mufflers.
- Shut off the engine before unclogging, servicing, or adjusting the mower and before removing the grass bag. Use Lock Out / Tag Out when needed. For added protection, remove the ignition wire before working on the machine.

#### Riding Lawn Mowers:

- Before starting the engine, make sure the transmission is out of gear and the mower blade clutch is disengaged. Discharge chute must be down.
- Test all safety switches before using mower. If switch is inoperable or bypassed – Do Not Use.
- If ROPS is present, seat belts **MUST** be used.
- Never allow extra riders on the lawn mower.
- Slow down when turning & when working on slopes. Mow up and down slopes rather than across.
- Always look behind you before backing.
- If you hit a large rock or stump, stop the mower and inspect the blades and shaft. Replace damaged blades.
- Never leave a lawn mower running unattended. Before leaving the seat, park the mower on a flat area, disengage the mower blades, shut off and then remove the ignition key.



#### Walk-Behind Mowers:

- Wear sturdy shoes with good traction. Never wear sandals or sneakers with walk-behind mowers.
- Do not bypass the safety that stops the blade when you release your grip on the handle.
- Mow across slopes rather than up and down slopes.
- Work slowly and patiently when mowing tall grass or tough weeds. Forcing the mower may stall the engine.

Never leave a running mower unattended. If you stop momentarily, cut the throttle to idle and make sure the mower will not roll away.

*This lesson plan is intended for general information purposes only. It should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion regarding any specific or factual situation. Always follow your organization's policies and procedures as presented by your manager or supervisor. For further information regarding this bulletin, please contact your Safety Director at 877.398.3046.*