

Mower Safety

Lawnmowers excel as cutting machines designed to trim grass with motor powered blades. Unfortunately, every summer numerous injuries happen at home as lawnmowers cut anything in its path. Items can turn into projectiles traveling up to 200 miles per hour as they are discharged from the blade causing serious injury to other people in the area or to the operator. In addition, gasoline fuel presents its own dangers including burns from hot muffler and cylinder heads on mowers.

Here are a few basic safe practices include the following:

- Before you mow, check your yard for items such as toys, rocks, sticks, sports equipment, wire, or other miscellaneous objects that may be hidden below the top the grass.
- Handle your fuel with care and fill when the engine is cool.
- Wear appropriate clothing to protect your feet and legs from flying debris and shoes with good traction and foot protection. Avoid loose fitting shoes or clothing that could get caught in the mower.
- Know where your discharge chute is pointed. Make sure friends and family, especially children, are out of the area where you are mowing.
- Do not mow wet grass. Wet grass is slippery and can cause the operator to lose footing, slip under the mower, or roll backwards.
- Use caution on slopes and inclines going across slopes to avoid sliding and do not jerk the mower the back and forth.
- Do not mow over graveled or mulched areas.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.

For more information on lawnmower safety, visit the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons at <http://orthoinfo.aaos.org/topic.cfm?topic=B00002>