



Public Sector Safety Talks—APERMA



Spring Time Means Mowing Time

It's that time of the year again. It's starting to warm up outside, it's raining more, and the grass is getting higher! Mowing will be starting very soon if it hasn't already. Here are a few precautions and safety measures to consider during this spring and summer season.

Hazards

Many hazards are involved when mowing including the following:

- Flying particles of dirt or debris, or other particles discharged from the cutting deck.
- Slopes, uneven, or unstable ground that could potentially result in rollovers or other unsafe conditions.
- Objects in the path of travel can damage equipment or become projectiles when struck.
- Exposure to outdoor environments including insects, sun, and allergens.
- Noise exposure.
- Exposure to mechanical hazards from the blades and other moving parts.

Before use

Inspect and test the equipment to manufacturer requirements before each use to assure that the safety devices are working. All guards should be in place and the equipment should be in good, ready to use condition. If the equipment is equipped with roll over protection or a seatbelt it must be functional and used. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for proper scheduled maintenance. Complete a written field inspection form to document that the equipment is suitable for use. Do not use the equipment if unsafe conditions exist.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **Body:** Shirt/Pants (Long Sleeve/Legged Preferred) without loose areas that could create a pull-in hazard.
- **Feet:** Boots, Anti-slip, Enclosed, Ankle Height, Leather
- **Eyes:** Safety glasses with side shields or wrap around lenses; can be appropriately shaded.

Operating Equipment

- Equipment operators shall be trained and qualified Manufacturer's instructions and operating procedures shall be followed.
- Before mowing an area, the equipment operator must make sure the area to be mowed is clear of people and hazards. Hazards may include uneven or soft terrain, holes, foreign objects, and any other type of obstruction they may encounter .
- Lawn mowers will not be left unattended. Engines and any other power take off or drives shall be shut off before the operator gets off the mower. Mowers should be disengaged when moving from one job to the next and/or when passing over curbs, gravel, or similar surface.
- Seatbelts should be worn if installed by the manufacturer. Riders are not permitted on mowers.
- Mowing hills and slopes requires the operators to follow special precautions. A pre-survey and approach needs to be established. Always use good judgment before operating on a steep slope.

Please feel free to contact Jim Bergemann or Kathi Williams 800-274-2788 with any questions regarding the above material.

"The information contained in this report was obtained from sources which to the best of the writer's knowledge are authentic and reliable. Arthur J. Gallagher makes no guarantee or results, and assumes no liability in connection with either the information herein contained, or the safety suggestions herein made. Moreover, it can not be assumed that every acceptable safety procedure is contained herein, or that abnormal or unusual circumstances may not warrant or require further or additional procedures."