



Preparing for Summer Related Hazards – Outdoor Power Equipment

The Next Three Seconds Protects Your Life, Your Loved Ones, Your Livelihood®

The N3L3 philosophy:

our approach to
protecting workers
from fatal and life-
changing events.

*Eastern Alliance is here
to help. To learn more
about Eastern's N3L3
program and access
other safety resources,
sign in and visit the
Safety Tools on
www.easternalliance.com,
or contact your
Risk Management
Consultant for assistance*

1.855.533.3444

According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, there were 77,244 injuries connected to lawn mowers and 22,605 injuries caused by other power lawn equipment in 2019. (<https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2019-NEISS-data-highlights.pdf?ZU3YoE6xnBRllCuP8BvBRpsXMV7Tb9sg>) Walk-behind lawn mowers, lawn and garden tractors, edgers, and trimmers present unique hazards to operators and bystanders.

General Safety Tips:

- Read the owner's manual for the power equipment you will be operating.
- For gasoline-powered equipment, properly store the gas in a UL Listed safety can.
- Fill gas tanks only when the engine is cool.
- Start gas-powered equipment outdoors.
- If using electric-powered equipment, keep the cord safely out of the way to avoid tripping over the cord and losing control. Take care to not accidentally run over or cause damage to the cord.
- Dress properly for the job, wearing substantial shoes, long pants and close-fitting clothes.
- Keep others, especially children, out of the area where you are going to work.
- Check your surroundings and remove objects such as sticks, metal, wire, and/or rocks from the area to avoid causing injuries to yourself or bystanders or damage to the equipment.

Riding Lawn Mower Safety Tips:

- Wear hearing protection -most riding lawn mowers exceed 85 decibels.
- Make sure all guards are in place before mowing.
- Always start the mower from the operator's seat.
- Never carry passengers.
- Use extreme caution when on unlevel ground.
- Observe proper shutdown procedures before dismounting.
- Never override safety shut-offs.



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Zero Turn Mower Safety Tips:

Zero turn mowers have a greater risk of tipping over due to their ability to turn 180 degrees, particularly if operated on hillsides.

- Read and follow operators manual and instructions for safe use.
- Avoid sharp turns and slopes.
- Stay within the design parameters for your equipment.
- Avoid mowing up or down a slope – always mow across the slope if needed.

Many larger mowers are equipped with Rollover Protection Systems (ROPS) and seat belts to prevent operator from being pinned under equipment in the event of a rollover. Always keep the ROPS in the upright position, and always use the seat belts if the equipment was designed with them.

Walk-Behind Mower Safety Tips:

- Wear hearing protection - most walk-behind lawn mowers exceed 85 decibels.
- Make sure both the discharge chute guard and rear deflector are in place before using the mower.
- Never mow wet grass. Pulling the mower backward or mowing up or down a slope could cause you to slip into the blades.
- Always watch your footing on slopes.
- Always turn the mower off when crossing a sidewalk or drive.
- Do not reach with your hand into the discharge chute to clean the blade.
- Turn the engine off and disconnect the spark plug wire, if accessible, before attempting to unclog or work on the mower.
- Never override safety shut-offs.

Trimmer Safety Tips:

- Wear hearing protection. Most trimmers exceed 85 decibels.
- Wear full eye protection.
- Wear long pants.
- Work at least 50 feet from other people.
- Do not trim or cut higher than your shoulders.
- Before attempting any adjustment of the blade or wheels, make certain the engine is off, the blade is disengaged and if gas-powered, the spark plug wire disconnected.



Source: iStock.com

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This information is proprietary and is intended to assist you in your safety efforts. It must not be assumed that every unsafe condition or procedure has been covered in this document, nor that every possible loss potential, and legal violation has been identified herein. This document is not a substitute for the establishment of risk management programs by your management.