

SB016: Riding Lawnmower Safety: Safe Operation and Hazard Prevention

Operating a riding lawn mower safely involves being aware of hazards like rollovers, falls, and moving blades. This safety briefing covers safe start-up procedures, slope safety, precautions near drop-offs and water hazards, and measures to prevent blade-related injuries while mowing.

Safe Start- Up

- Start the mower only from the operator's seat.
- Make sure attachments are disengaged.
- Place the transmission in neutral before starting.
- Start the mower on level ground.
- **Fasten the seat belt** when equipped with a Roll-Over Protective Structure (ROPS).

Work Safely on Slopes

- Slopes increase the risk of rollovers.
- **Never exceed** the manufacturer's **slope limits**.
- Mow up and down slopes when recommended by the manufacturer.
- **Avoid** sudden **turns or sharp movements**.
- Reduce speed when traveling downhill or around corners.
- Never leave a mower unattended on a slope.

To ensure safety around drop-offs and water hazards:

- Stay at least 5 feet from unprotected edges like ditches and steep slopes.
- Be cautious of tip-over risks near slopes and uneven ground.
- Exercise extra care near bodies of water.
- Assess slope and ground conditions before mowing near water.
- Establish a safety zone around water hazards.
- Avoid mowing where there's a risk of sliding or tipping into water or over edges.
- Report unsafe areas to your supervisor.

Prevent Blade Injuries

- Keep hands and feet away from moving blades.
- Never place hands under the mower deck.
- Shut off the engine before removing debris.
- Keep guards and shields in place.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.
- Use only manufacturer-approved blades and attachments.



Take Responsibility



Follow all workplace safety rules.

Report hazards and unsafe conditions.

Speak up if equipment is damaged or unsafe.

Encourage coworkers to work safely.

SAFE FUEL HANDLING



Turn off the engine before fueling.

Never smoke while handling fuel.

Fill fuel container outdoors on the ground.

Use only approved fuel containers.

Store fuel and equipment away from heat, sparks, and open flames.