



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

As Grass Grows, So Does The Potential For Lawn Mower Injuries

Mower-related injuries are an everyday occurrence. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 230,000 operators and bystanders require medical treatment each year for mower-related injuries

MOWER HAZARDS - The mower is a cutting machine designed to trim grass but has the potential to cut anything that is placed in its path. The cutting edge of the mower blade can travel at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour. Even a dull blade at that speed can slice fingers and toes that get in the way.



Other materials, such as toys, stones, sticks and equipment parts can become projectiles when struck by the blade. These items, too, can travel up to 200 miles per hour as they leave the discharge chute. Items thrown from mowers can cause serious injury to other people in the area or to the operator when there is no rear guard. Thrown items can also cause property damage.

In addition to cutting and projectile dangers, mowers also can cause burns. The muffler and cylinder head heat up during operation, and remain hot for some time after the engine has been turned off.

Fuel is another danger. Most mowers are powered by gasoline-driven combustion engines. Gasoline is a very explosive and flammable material that should be treated with respect. One gallon of gasoline combined with the correct amount of air is equivalent to 83 pounds of dynamite. Gasoline is flammable because it vaporizes with the air to form a mixture that ignites easily. Vaporization can occur in temperatures as low as zero degrees.

SAFE PRACTICES - Read instruction manuals, especially if you've purchased a new lawn mower. Keep your lawn mower in good working order. Be careful when mowing hills or slopes. Never cut your grass with the ground damp. Never use a lawn mower in the rain. Wear protective gear such as goggles, ear plugs, gloves and long pants, choose the correct footwear. Never go barefoot when mowing. No one else, especially children, should be near a lawn mower in operation. Never insert hands or feet into the mower if it becomes clogged. When choosing a lawn mower, choose a model with guards on the chute and a cutoff switch. Never operate a lawn mower if you have been consuming alcohol, and use discretion when taking medications that might inhibit your reaction.

Following these guidelines will ensure that you operate your mower safely and avoid a trip to the hospital. Public information is the most effective tool we have as we attempt to lessen the number of lawnmower injuries.