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## AGRICULTURAL SAFETY TOPICS

### POWER LAWN MOWERS

#### Objective:

To be able to operate power lawn mowers according to safety guidelines.

#### Background:

A power lawn mower can be dangerous and cause serious injuries. A rotary mower blade whirls at 2,000 or 4,000 revolutions per minute or at 160 km/h to 320 km/h (100 to 200 miles per hour). For safety reasons, it is important to know how to quickly disengage the clutch and stop the engine.

#### To operate a power lawn mower, follow these tips:

- Begin by reading the operator's manual.
- Before mowing remove debris from lawn.
- Wear protective, close fitting clothing.
- Start mower from a firm stance with feet in a safe position.
- Take self-propelled mowers out of gear before starting.
- Keep both feet on the footrests of a riding mower.
- Keep all guards and safety shields in place.
- Never fill the gasoline tank on the mower if the engine is hot.
- Store gasoline in an approved, properly labeled container.
- Turn off the motor before dismounting or removing a foreign object
- Disconnect the spark or electric plug before repairing mower.
- Never use an electric mower on wet grass.
- Provide routine maintenance.
- No extra riders on self-propelled mowers (refer to No Riders on Farm and Lawn Equipment).

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## AGRICULTURAL SAFETY TOPICS – POWER LAWN MOWERS

### Be Aware of Mowing Hazards:

- A mower can tip over easily.
- Push the mower away from the body during a fall.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.
- Take rest periods as needed (refer to Heat Stress).
- Foreign objects can fly from the mower, so make sure the mowing area is clear of people and animals.

### Proper mowing directions:

- When mowing on a slope with a riding mower, you should mow down the slope.
- When mowing on a slope with a push mower, you should mow across the slope.

### Proper dress for mowing:

- Sturdy shoes.
- Long pants and long sleeve shirts.
- Safety glasses or goggles when mowing near solid objects.

## AGRICULTURAL SAFETY TOPICS – POWER LAWN MOWERS

### Review the Following Points:

- Wear protective, snug clothing when mowing.
- Keep guards and safety shields in place.
- Turn off the mower before dismounting or removing any foreign objects.
- Know how to disengage the clutch and stop the engine.
- A rotary blade whirls between 2,000 and 4,000 revolutions per minute at speeds between 100-200 miles/hour (160 km/h to 320 km/h).
- Never leave a running mower unattended.

Based upon: Ohio State University Extension. *Mowers Power*. Retrieved from website <http://ohioline.osu.edu/atts/modules.html>

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