

Landscape Maintenance Hazards



Landscape Maintenance can require some dangerous activities. As passive as cutting grass may seem, it really does require special training and adherence to safety precautions to keep workers from minor and life-threatening injuries. A list of lawn maintenance safety tips can never be complete. What one person regards as an "obvious" danger will catch another quite unaware. Periodic safety reviews will minimize risks for staff members.

General Safety Tips

- Know how to operate the equipment. Read the operator's manual before using any power equipment.
- Handle gas carefully. Fill up before you start and when the engine is cool. Watch for hot mufflers.
- Clear the area before you mow. Always remove stones, sticks and other objects from the area so that objects won't fly up and hit anyone. The most common injuries are from debris flying up.
- Wear hearing protection to prevent potentially damaging sounds from reaching your ears.
- Wear eye protection to prevent injury from projectiles.
- Wear sturdy closed-toe, slip-resistant shoes.
- If anyone comes near a mower, shut it off.
- Use caution when moving on steep slopes and when mowing around low hanging branches and shrubs.
- Always look behind before backing the mower.

DON'T:

- Remove safety guards from a mower.
- Fuel the mower while the engine is hot.
- Allow others to ride on the mower with you.
- Point the discharge toward people, animals or buildings.
- Do not touch hot motor parts

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Hedge Trimmer

- Hazards – electricity or gasoline, heavy, sharp cutting surfaces, noise
- PPE – gloves, hearing protection, dust mask



Weed Trimmers

- Hazards – heavy, gasoline, rotating cutting line or blades, noise, dust, flying rocks
- PPE - long pants and shirt, eye protection, hearing protection, sturdy boots



Tree Saw

- Hazards – sharp cutting surfaces
- PPE – gloves, eye protection, Sturdy boots



Leaf Blowers

- Don't use the blower to clean yourself.
- Be aware of pedestrians and others in the area. Don't direct the blower toward bystanders.
- Wear eye protection such as goggles or safety glasses and ear plugs.
- With electric blowers, inspect all extension cords for cuts, nicks, scrapes, and exposed wire that could pose an electrical hazard. Replace damaged cords immediately.

