



Lawn Equipment Safety Guide

A 5-Minute Safety Training Aid

HS94-32F (10-24)

Using power lawn equipment such as push mowers and line trimmers can lead to serious injuries if not handled properly. Common accidents include severe cuts and even amputations, with wounds often prone to infection due to outdoor conditions. To minimize risks, use these safety tips.



Power Push Mowers

- **Read the manual.**
Familiarize yourself with the operator's manual and understand how to use the machine correctly.
- **Never disable or bypass safety devices.**
Safety shields, discharge chutes, and features that stop the mower's blades when the handle is released are there to protect you from injury. Use them.
- **Read warning labels.**
Never remove warning labels from equipment.
- **Clear the area.**
Remove rocks, sticks, toys, and other debris that can become dangerous projectiles.
- **Keep bystanders away.**
Ensure that bystanders, especially children, are kept away from the mowing area.
- **Keep hands and feet away from blades.**
Stop the engine before clearing clogs or emptying the grass catcher.
- **Never leave running mowers unattended.**
Always stop the engine before leaving the mower.

- **Turn off the engine before adjusting the mower wheels.**
Adjusting the wheels while the engine is on can cause the mower to shift leading to loss of control or contact with the moving blades.
- **Avoid pulling the mower backward toward you.**
Mow forward to prevent the risk of your feet ending up under the mower causing possible cuts or amputations.
- **Mow across slopes.**
Avoid mowing up and down slopes to prevent tipping hazards.
- **Wait to mow on dry grass.**
Mowing on dry grass ensures good footing while mowing.
- **Stop the engine and let it cool before refueling.**
Clean up spills immediately and never refuel indoors.



Power Line Trimmers

- **Follow the manufacturer's instructions.**
Get familiar with the trimmer's operation by reading the manual thoroughly.
- **Keep guards in place.**
To avoid injury, never operate the trimmer without the guard in place.
- **Clear the work area.**
Remove objects like sticks, rocks, and wires to avoid flying projectiles.
- **Maintain a safe distance.**
Keep people and animals at least 35 feet away from the operating area.
- **Wear eye protection.**
Always wear eye protection to prevent eye injuries from flying objects.
- **Wear heavy-duty, water-resistant boots.**
Good foot protection will keep cutting lines or blades away from your feet and legs.
- **Use good body positioning.**
Hold the trimmer away from your body to avoid contact with hot equipment parts like mufflers.



Clothing and Maintenance

- **Wear protective clothing.**
Wear close-fitting clothes, long pants, and closed-toe shoes with traction soles.
- **Avoid loose clothing.**
Loose clothing, scarves, jewelry, and untucked shirts can snag on controls or moving parts.
- **Use eye and ear protection.**
Use safety glasses or goggles for eye protection and earplugs for hearing protection.
- **Use sturdy, leather gloves.**
Wear gloves when servicing or adjusting equipment, especially blades.
- **Use caution during engine maintenance.**
When working on equipment with blade guards removed, disconnect and ground spark plug wires to prevent accidental starts.

Remember to practice safety. Do not learn it by accident!



www.txsafetyatwork.com

1-800-252-7031, Option 2

*The Texas Department of Insurance,
Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC)-Workplace Safety
P.O. Box 12050
Austin, TX 78711-2050*

Disclaimer: Unless otherwise noted, this document was produced by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation using information from staff subject specialists, government entities, or other authoritative sources. Information contained in this fact sheet is considered accurate at the time of publication. For more free publications and other occupational safety and health resources, visit www.txsafetyatwork.com, call 800-252-7031, option 2, or email resourcecenter@tdi.texas.gov.