



Zero-Turn Radius Riding Mower Safety

A 5-Minute Safety Training Aid

HS08-002B (10-24)

Zero-turn radius riding mowers have gained popularity due to their ability to mow close to buildings and landscaping. However, improper use and lack of safety precautions, combined with the mower's 180-degree turning capability and low center of gravity, have increased tipping hazards. By following these safety tips, you can help reduce these accidents.



Safety Basics

- Read and follow the directions in the operator's manual for your mower. If you or your employer do not have the manual, contact the manufacturer for a new copy.
- Keep clear of the mower's rotating parts.
- Avoid mowing in reverse.
- Wear any Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required by the operator's manual.
- Hand trim areas near water or on drop-offs.



Slope Operations



- Do NOT operate a zero-turning radius mower on slopes greater than 15 degrees.
- Keep the mower's movement slow and steady.
- Apply even pressure on the steering levers.
- Maintain a safe distance from drop-offs, water, and other hazards.
- Do not make rapid corrections or turns.
- Mow up and down slopes, not across.
- Avoid wet slopes to prevent losing traction and tipping.



Additional Safety



Many zero-turn radius riding mower manufacturers now equip their mowers with Rollover Protection Systems (ROPS) and seatbelts. However, safe operating procedures must still be followed even when a mower is equipped with ROPS.

Remember, proper training and adherence to safety guidelines are crucial for preventing accidents and ensuring the safe operation of zero-turn radius riding mowers.



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