



# MOWING

## TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – WORKPLACE HAZARDS

April 2024

As we embark on our landscaping and maintenance tasks, it's crucial to prioritize safety to prevent accidents and ensure a productive work environment. Let's review some key safety guidelines to keep in mind when using commercial mowers.

**1. Pre-Operation Inspection:** Before starting any mowing activity, perform a thorough inspection of the mower. Check for loose or damaged parts, ensure all safety guards are in place, and inspect the blades for any signs of wear or damage. Never operate a mower that is in need of repair or maintenance.

**2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

Always wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when operating a commercial mower. This includes safety goggles or glasses to protect your eyes from debris, hearing protection to minimize noise exposure, sturdy footwear with non-slip soles, and long pants to protect your legs from flying debris.



**3. Clear the Area:** Before mowing, survey the area to be mowed and remove any obstacles such as rocks, branches, or debris that could become projectiles when struck by the mower blades. Clear the area of bystanders, pets, and children to prevent accidents and injuries.

**4. Safe Operating Procedures:** When operating the mower, keep both hands on the controls at all times and maintain a firm grip. Always mow in a forward direction, never in reverse, unless absolutely necessary and ensure the area behind you is clear of obstacles and people. Avoid mowing on steep slopes or uneven terrain that could cause loss of control.

**5. Shut Off Safely:** When finished with mowing or when leaving the mower unattended, always shut off the engine, engage the parking brake, and wait for all moving parts to come to a



complete stop before dismounting. Never leave a running mower unattended, as it could pose a serious safety hazard.

**6. Refueling Safety:** Handle fuel with care and follow proper refueling procedures to prevent spills and fires. Refuel the mower only when the engine is cool and in a well-ventilated area. Avoid smoking or using open flames near fueling areas, and clean up any spills promptly.

**7. Maintenance and Inspection:** Regular maintenance is essential to keep the mower in safe working condition. Follow the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule for tasks such as blade sharpening, oil changes, and filter replacements. Inspect the mower regularly for signs of wear or damage and address any issues promptly.



**Conclusion:** As we undertake our landscaping and maintenance duties, let's remember that safety is paramount when operating commercial mowers. By conducting pre-operation inspections, wearing appropriate PPE, clearing the mowing area, following safe operating procedures, shutting off the mower safely, handling fuel with care, and performing regular maintenance, we can minimize the risk of accidents and ensure a safe working environment for everyone.