



# Groundskeeping – Know the Hazards

Groundskeeping work can be hazardous. Mowers and other landscaping equipment have cutting surfaces, rotating parts, and hot engine parts, and they can expel rocks and debris. Protect your employees from injury by considering the following tips:



## Personal Protective Equipment

- Wear proper footwear to prevent foot injuries and slip and falls.
- Wear impact resistant eye wear with side shields.
- Wear appropriate hearing protection.
- Wearing long sleeve shirts and pants will help prevent contact with poison ivy and other plants that can cause mild to severe cases of skin irritations.



## Engine and Parts

- Allow hot engines and engine parts to cool down before refueling equipment.
- Keep cigarettes and other sources of ignition away from gas-powered equipment and gasoline containers.
- Disable equipment before servicing it.



## Use Your Machine Appropriately

- Read all manufacturer manuals, train from them, and ensure employees adhere to the recommendations.
- When using ride-on mowers or tractors, do not carry passengers.
- Use only the load rating and attachments approved by the manufacturer.
- Use rollover protection bars and screens designed by the manufacturer, as well as seatbelts if equipped.
- Know the slope restrictions for equipment and avoid steep slopes, inclines, or areas that may not be stable due to rain, water, or other environmental conditions.
- Be aware of power lines and take appropriate action when working near them.
- Watch out for bees and other potentially poisonous insects or animals.



## Strain/Sprains

- Consider using ergonomically designed tools to help prevent cumulative-type injuries. For instance, use a shoulder strap to take some of the weight off the gasoline powered weed trimmer that you use daily.



## Protect Your Skin and Hydrate

- Use a suitable sunscreen for your skin type.
- In addition to long sleeves and pants, wear a hat with a large brim to shade your face and neck from the harsh effects of the sun.
- Stay hydrated by drinking water and liquids containing electrolytes, and avoid caffeinated and sugary drinks.

## Additional Resources

- [OSHA: Landscaping and Horticultural Services](#)
- [CDC Three Tips for Choosing the Right Hearing Protector](#)
- [TDI Riding Lawnmower Safety](#)
- Visit your [TMLIRP Media Library](#) for additional safety DVDs