LAWN MOWERS: RIDE ON

INTRODUCTION

Ride on lawnmowers offer the speed and ease of use that a regular push mower simply can't. Along with the convenience, however, comes serious safety risks that must be acknowledged. Roughly 200,000 people suffer from lawn mower related accidents each year, and unfortunately most of those could be prevented if the following steps were taken:

- Become familiar with how to operate the mower correctly
- Do not remove or tamper with any guard
- Wear complete personal protective equipment
- NEVER attempt to dislodge debris caught in the blades

SAFETY RISKS

Become familiar with how to operate the mower correctly:
If you have never operated a ride on lawn mower before, it is a good idea to look over the owner's manual and learn all of the necessary settings such as:

- How to adjust the cutting height
- Blade engagement AND disengagement
- Automatic shut off

If time permits, drive the lawn mower without the blades activated for a short time to familiarize yourself with how it drives.

Do not remove or tamper with any guard that is meant to be in place:
If the blade of your lawn mower happens to strike a rock on the ground, that rock will go flying at 200 mph in an unknown direction. This is why most lawn mowers come with guards and it is so important to keep these guards in place.

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Wear proper personal protective equipment:
Anytime you must use a ride on lawn mower, or any other kind of lawn mower, complete personal protective equipment does apply.

DO

- Gloves
- Ear Protection
- Boots
- Thick, durable clothing
- Safety glasses

DON'T

- Shear clothing
- Flip flops
- Loose clothing

NEVER attempt to dislodge debris caught in the blades:
Reaching under the lawnmower while it is on creates a high risk of amputation. In order to reduce the risk, the machine must be properly locked and tagged out before doing maintenance of any kind. Even if the blades seem to be stopped, one touch of your hand may cause them to start back up again –and at 2800 to 3300 revolutions per minute, they create a tremendous amount of force that could easily severe a limb.

CONCLUSION

Just remember that accidents are much more likely to occur with ride on lawnmowers than with push mowers, because they are moving at a much faster speed. Placing your attention elsewhere for just one moment is all the time it takes for a serious accident to happen. Fortunately, adhering to the above safety guidelines will greatly reduce that risk.