



Safety Brief – 2012-13

Mowing Safety Tips

The summer months bring about more outdoor work for highway maintenance workers including mowing along roadways. Uncut grass can block the sightline and the site distance for motorist. Any situation that limits the vision and reduces the reaction time of drivers will create unnecessary safety hazards and will ultimately compromise the safety of everyone. Mowing safety should be a priority for agencies during this time of the year.

Mowing Plan

It's a good idea to develop a mowing plan prior to the start of the season. This will ensure a more efficient system. The mowing plan should include the following:

- Establish priorities for routes
- Determine number of cycles for each priority
- Determine manpower and equipment resources needed
- Establish guidelines for acceptable mowing
- Keep records and evaluate results



Safety Tips

Since mowing is a common activity, there is a tendency to view it as being less hazardous than is really the case. Each year, thousands of people are injured in lawn mowing activities.

The following practices will help in preventing most accidents:

- Be sure anyone operating the power understands how the mower operations.
- Be sure all safety devices, switches, guards and shields are in place before starting the mower.
- Wear close-fitting clothing and wear earplugs to preserve your hearing.
- Keep all persons away from the mowing area.
- Avoid mowing when the ground is wet.
- Stay off steep slopes.
- Do not refuel when the engine is running or while it is hot.

Safety practices may be common sense but we often need reminders. Take a few minutes before each mowing season to review these safety suggestions.



Additional information can be found on the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) website at www.ansi.org and the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute website at www.opei.org.

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