

Lawn mowing Injuries

Lawn mower-related injuries can be devastating. They can result in serious injuries, amputations or even death. Common lawn mower-related injuries are deep cuts; loss of fingers, hands, toes, or feet; broken and dislocated bones; burns; eye injuries; soft tissue damage; and sprains or strains.

It is common to see a teen mow the lawn as a chore or to earn cash. However, lawn mowers can be very dangerous, and thousands of children suffer severe injuries every year.

More than 8,490 children younger than 18 years are treated in emergency departments for lawn mower-related injuries each year. Usually the victims are older children or teens, but one in four injuries occurs to children younger than 6 years old.

Almost half of the injuries to children younger than 6 years are burns to the hands. This usually happens when the child touches the hot motor.

Bystanders are also injured by lawn mowers. This can happen if the lawn mower ejects debris or if someone on a ride-on mower backs up over a child.



Safety and Prevention Tips

- **Teach and supervise teens.** Children should be at least 12 years old to operate a push mower and at least 16 years old before using a ride-on mower. An adult should supervise teens before they are allowed to operate a lawn mower on their own.
- **Kid-free zone.** Children should never be passengers on ride-on mowers and children younger than 6 years of age should be kept indoors during mowing. Never let children play on or near a lawn mower, even when it is not in use.
- **Before you mow.** Pick up any stones or other objects in the grass. Objects thrown by a lawn mower can cause severe eye and other injuries. Put on protective eyewear and make sure you are wearing sturdy closed shoes. Consider hearing protection.
- **While you mow.** Always be aware and double check your surroundings. When using a walk-behind lawn mower, use a mower with a control that stops it from moving forward if the handle is released. Always mow going forward. If you absolutely have to mow in reverse, always look behind you before you start backing up.
- **Turn it off.** Use mowers that have protection over the hot and sharp parts. Wait for the blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute, or crossing gravel roads.

*Amputations

In extreme lawnmower accidents, loss of a body part might be a possibility. If an amputation occurs, the body part should be brought to the hospital as well. Depending on the incident, the body part may be reattached. If possible wrap the amputated body part in a damp bandage. Then, seal it in a plastic bag and put the plastic bag in a container with water and ice.

