



# Mower Safety

## The CompWest Difference

CompWest customers are assigned a dedicated loss control consultant to identify and address loss trends while serving as a safety resource.

### Know Before You Mow!

Landscaping mowers can cause serious injuries. With proper care and the right knowledge, you can minimize injuries associated with these operations. Training, supervision and attention to detail are critical. Follow these steps to reduce the risk:

#### Before Mowing:

- Read or review the operator's manual. Know the mower's controls before you operate it.
- Never operate a mower unless the safety devices are in place.
- Check the "dead man" control before using in a public place.
- Proper attire and appropriate PPE is required. No loose clothing or sandals.
- Fill the fuel tank outdoors — and never smoke while fueling equipment.
- Adjust the height of the blade before starting the mower.
- Know the blade is sharp and ready to cut.
- Before maintenance, disconnect the spark plug. Never remove a blade without gloves.
- Pick up debris (rocks, large limbs, etc.) before you mow. Know the path is clear.
- Never allow anyone to operate equipment unless proper supervision is complete.

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**Operating the Mower:**

- Before starting the engine, make sure the mower and transmission are disengaged.
- Start the engine outside. Avoid a buildup of dangerous fumes.
- Drive the mower up and down gentle slopes for stability.
- Always back up moderate slopes and avoid steep slopes altogether.
- Watch for fairway obstructions, tee box markers, large limbs and other debris.
- Remain seated until the engine comes to a complete stop before dismounting.
- Remove the key when leaving the mower unattended.
- Slow down when turning sharply to avoid tipping.
- Turn and look behind you before backing the mower up. Know your surroundings.
- Point the discharge chute away from people, buildings and animals at all times.
- Keep hands and feet away from moving parts. Make sure guards are in place.

Following these simple rules can reduce the risk of injuries. If you are unsure about the safety of any operation, ask for help.

Additional material can be found online at the National Agriculture Safety Database at [www.cdc.gov/nasd/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/index.html).

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