



Prepare your outside work, and get everything ready in the field.

(Proverbs 24:27.)



Between 2012 and 2014 an average of over 70,000 people each year were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries resulting from power lawn mowers (U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission). While many people routinely perform outdoor maintenance without any injury, these statistics highlight that there is a measure of risk involved in this type of work. Please consider the following reminders as this work is performed at our theocratic facilities.

GENERAL REMINDERS

- **Know your equipment**
 - Understand and follow the operating instructions.
 - Know how to stop the machine quickly.
- **Fuel safety**
 - "Store gasoline and flammable liquids in certified, approved safety containers." (DC-82 p. 5)
 - Do not refuel a hot engine.
- **Inspect and clean the equipment**
 - Check for loose belts and missing or damaged parts.
- **Wear appropriate PPE for the task**
 - Protect your eyes with safety glasses.
 - A face shield is recommended when operating a string trimmer.
 - Protect legs and feet by wearing long pants and sturdy footwear.
 - Wear gloves and hearing protection.
 - Wear kneepads when work requires kneeling on hard surfaces for extended periods of time.
- **Avoid overexposure to the sun**
 - Consider wearing long-sleeved shirts, collars, and hats.
 - Apply sunscreen to all exposed skin.
- **Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water**

USING POWER LAWN MOWERS

- Workers must be at least 18 years of age to operate powered equipment. (DC-82 p. 3)
- Slopes are a major factor related to loss of control and tip-over accidents.
 - Push walk-behind mowers **horizontally** across slopes and drive riding mowers **up and down** parallel to the slope.



- Do not mow wet grass.
- Avoid using the lawn mower in reverse unless absolutely necessary. Always look down and behind before and while backing.
- Watch for uneven terrain, which can cause the machine to overturn.
- Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches or embankments.
- Push, do not pull, a walk-behind mower. If you slip, you could pull the mower on top of you.
- Stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire when making repairs, changing blades, or cleaning the mower.
- Always check the lawn before you mow; objects can become missiles.
- Use caution when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may block your view.
- Keep small children out of the mowing area.