

INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

LANDSCAPING SAFETY

Without taking the proper precautions, landscaping can be an extremely dangerous activity. Irwin Siegel Agency is dedicated to assisting those engaged in these activities to develop the safest practices.

KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT

It is important to understand the Operator's Manual, including the danger, warning, and caution decals before starting to use the equipment. Understanding the machine and its accessories will mitigate the possibility of injuries. Pay particular attention to slope capabilities, braking, steering, turning radius, and operating clearances.

PREPARING FOR THE DAY

Before the start of the workday, consider these following checks, everyday:

- ✓ Repair/replace any loose, broken, missing, or damaged parts on your equipment.
- ✓ Make sure that all guards and shields are in place and secured tightly.
- ✓ Check any hydraulic systems and have any leaks or damaged parts repaired.

1 in 50 landscape workers have suffered an injury each year that has kept the person out of work for an average total of 7 days at a time.

SCAN THE AREA

Conducting a "walkthrough" of the work area prior to beginning work will allow the crew to remove potential dangerous hazards such as rocks or other debris that may be thrown by a mower or other equipment.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

SUNSCREEN

Sunscreen is perhaps the most forgotten piece of personal protective equipment. Fair skinned individuals and those taking certain medications are at greatest risk. It is important to understand that you can still be burned on a cloudy day. See the product directions before applying the sunscreen.

FOOT PROTECTION

Safety boots should be the regular footwear for all workers. These boots should preferably be non-slip and steel-toed.

HAND PROTECTION

Heavy leather gloves will protect the hands and should have a good grip to ensure control of the equipment. Unlined neoprene gloves are best for handling chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides.



HEARING PROTECTION

Ear muff type devices cover the entire ear and provide an acoustic barrier. These often offer better protection than inserts. Ear protection should be worn when noise levels exceed 85 db. When choosing hearing protection devices the needs of the individual should be considered.

EYE PROTECTION

Your safety eye wear should include impact-resistant lenses. Face shields provide added protection and should be considered in conjunction with goggles. Remember to wash your hands after touching personal protective devices that have come in contact with chemicals.

CLOSE FITTED CLOTHES

Loose clothing and Jewelry should not be worn. Loose sleeves, pant legs, and jewelry can get caught in machine parts and chain saws causing severe injury.

LAWN MOWER HAZARDS CHECKLIST

Indicator	Yes/No	Target Date	Hazard Corrected	Comments
Do you always wear safety shoes while mowing?				
Do you always pick up trash, etc. prior to mowing?				
Does the mower have safety shields?				
Is a grass catcher used to help prevent objects from being "thrown" from the mower?				
Do you always turn the mower off before crossing gravel drives or walkways?				
Is extra gasoline stored in a safety gas can?				
Do you always disconnect the spark plug wire before turning the mower over for servicing?				
Do you insist that everyone leave the area prior to mowing?				
Do you mow up and down a slope with a riding mower?				
Do you work across the slope with a hand lawn mower?				
Do you always look behind you before backing up a riding mower?				
Do you make it a practice to never pull a hand mower toward yourself?				
Do you always wear hearing protection when operating power lawn equipment?				