



# **MOWING SAFETY TIPS**

## **WELCOME TO THE EXMARK FAMILY**

Thank you for choosing an Exmark zero-turn mower. These safety recommendations are intended for operator's of Exmark's consumer mowers. Safety recommendations for Exmark commercial mowers can be found at [www.exmark.com/safetytips.htm](http://www.exmark.com/safetytips.htm).

With your purchase comes the responsibility to use your new mower properly and safely! This brochure concerns your safety and the safety of those around you. **PLEASE** read it carefully!

Exmark products are built with safety in mind. Our mowers meet or exceed current industry and government safety standards; however, their proper use depends on YOU! Exmark mowers are designed to cut grass and they do this to perfection.



A lawn mower does not know the difference between a blade of grass and a finger or a toe. Most mower-related accidents are caused by negligent and careless

behavior. It is up to you, the user, to stay away from moving parts.

## **REMEMBER:**

A moment of carelessness could lead to a lifetime of regret.

## **SAFE OPERATING RULES FOR WALK-BEHIND AND RIDING MOWERS**

The same caution should be exercised when operating a lawn mower as driving an automobile. The following rules are intended to help you avoid possible injury or even death. Most safe operating instructions apply whether you are using a riding mower or a walk-behind mower and should always be observed.

Before performing any service to the mower, such as changing the oil or removing the blade for sharpening, stop the machine and wait for all moving parts to stop. Always pull the wire off the spark plug and push it aside so it does not accidentally contact the spark plug. This will ensure that the engine does not start.

**DO NOT** alter governor settings. See your Exmark dealer if your mower is not performing properly.

### 1. READ THE OPERATOR'S MANUAL THOROUGHLY!

Operator's Manuals address the use and reasonably foreseeable misuse of the mower. The manuals are written by Exmark employees familiar with the operation of the mowers, their capabilities and their limitations. Engineers who designed the machines are also involved in the writing of the Operator's Manuals.

Keep the Operator's Manual in a place where you can find it when needed.

Pay particular attention to the safety instructions. Insist that all individuals who will be operating the mower read and understand the Operator's Manual and this brochure at the beginning of each mowing season.



#### SAFETY ALERT SYMBOL

This symbol is important to your personal safety and the safety of those in the area.

When you see it, read the accompanying message carefully.

### 2. KNOW HOW TO STOP THE MACHINE QUICKLY!

Before doing anything else, check the operation of the blade stopping feature. If the blade stopping feature is not working properly, DO NOT operate the mower until the problem has been located and corrected. See your Exmark dealer to be sure.

**NEVER** leave the operator's position without first stopping the machine.



### 3. LEAVE ALL SAFETY FEATURES INTACT!

Guards, shields, deflectors, and warnings decals are on the machine for your protection and that of others.

**DO NOT** remove or disable a safety feature because it seems to be an inconvenience. If a safety feature should be lost or damaged or a decal should become illegible discontinue use of the mower until the damaged or missing parts are repaired or replaced.

The discharge deflector is designed to direct thrown objects downward into the grass. They also help prevent accidental contact with the blade.

**DO NOT** remove or disable a deflector, shield, or guard.



**DO NOT** operate the mower if the discharge deflector is in any position other than the normal operating position.



If the discharge deflector is ever damaged, replace it immediately.

**NEVER** put your hands or feet under the mower.

**NEVER** try to clear the discharge area or mower blades unless the engine is stopped and the spark plug wire has been pulled off.

Be certain that no persons or pets are in the vicinity of a mower when it is in use, as a thrown object which hits a sidewalk, driveway, or other hard surface can ricochet upward. Stop mowing if a person or foreign object appears in your mowing area.



This is the only way to avoid possible injury to that person or damage to objects in the cutting area.

**DO NOT** operate a rear bagger or a mower with a mulching attachment unless the discharge door is closed, or the bag, mulch plug or side discharge attachment is properly secured.

Check the grass-catching bag frequently as it is subject to deterioration. If it is worn or damaged, replace it with a new bag. A hole or a weak spot in the bag could allow a foreign object to be thrown into the operator's position or the surrounding area.

If you notice damage to the mower such as loose screws, missing bolts, broken parts, or anything abnormal, **STOP** the engine, wait for all moving parts to stop, and correct the condition before you resume mowing.

Check all parts periodically for wear or deterioration and replace as required with genuine Exmark parts.

Exmark parts are designed and tested specifically for use on Exmark products. If a part on your mower must be replaced, use a genuine Exmark part.

#### 4. CLEAR THE MOWING AREA!

The mower blade rotates at an extremely high speed! It is shaped to create an upward draft under the housing, a vacuuming action, to stand the grass up for a cleaner cut. Because of this, the blade can pick up debris, such as small rocks, wires, and broken glass, and throw it out the discharge port with considerable force. The operator should use extreme caution to minimize the risks from these thrown objects by taking these precautions.

Before starting the mower, walk around the area and pick up any rocks, wires, sticks, and other objects that the blade might pick up and throw. Be careful about this.



**REMEMBER** once an object has been thrown and caused injury, it is too late to think about what should have been done! Keep everyone out of the area being mowed. If children are playing in the back yard, cut the front yard, and vice versa. Better still, send them into the house while you are mowing. A child can dart in front of the mower in a fraction of a second, and that's all it takes for an accident.

If someone enters the yard while you're mowing, turn off the mower and wait until he or she leaves the area before restarting the mower.

**NEVER** cross driveways or paths with the blade rotating. The blade can pick up and throw gravel or loose rocks.

## 5. AVOID BLADE CONTACT

Always assume the blade is turning when the engine is running.



**NEVER** put your hand or any part of the body, in or anywhere close to the blade path when the engine is running. This applies even if the mower is

equipped with a blade brake clutch.



**REMEMBER:** There is little clearance between the outer ends of the blade and the inside surface

of the housing. An injury can result if the operator of a lawn mower puts his or her hand in the path of a turning blade when attempting to clear a plugged discharge port, or when changing the height-of-cut without turning off the engine. To depend entirely on the mechanical or electrical safety devices is not good enough. Use caution and common sense as well.

**NEVER** clear the chute with the engine running. Turn off the engine and be sure the blade has stopped before making any adjustments or corrections. Use a stick to clear a plugged discharge area. **NEVER** use your hand!



## 6. NEVER ALLOW CHILDREN TO OPERATE A LAWN MOWER!

A lawn mower is not a toy, and cutting grass is not child's play. Maturity varies greatly among children, but



a good rule to follow is: If you're not comfortable with them driving your automobile, you should not allow them to operate a lawn mower — whether it is a walk behind or riding mower.

Only adults and mature teenagers should operate a mower, and even mature teenagers should have adult supervision.

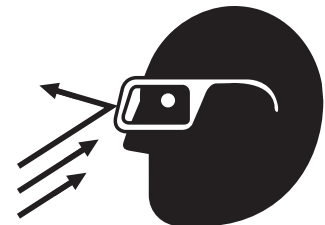
Be sure a teenager:

- 1) Has the ability to read and understand the Operator's Manual and to recognize the risks involved.
- 2) Is sufficiently mature to use caution.
- 3) Is of sufficient size and weight to operate the controls comfortably and to manage the mower without taking risks.

If you have doubts or questions, **DO NOT** take the risk! Make sure all persons operating the mower read and understand the Operator's Manual first and are familiar with the controls.

## 7. WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

Dress for the job of cutting grass. This means substantial shoes (no sandals, tennis shoes, etc.) and full length trousers must be worn. **NEVER** mow barefooted. Be aware that loose clothing or dangling jewelry can become entangled in moving mower parts and lead to an accident. To be properly dressed for the job, goggles or similar eye protection is recommended.



## 8. GIVE YOUR MOWING OPERATION YOUR FULL ATTENTION AND FULL USE OF YOUR FACULTIES!

**DO NOT** operate a lawn mower when under the influence of alcohol, medication or other mind-altering substances; or if you feel especially depressed, tired, or angry. Avoid distractions such as ear phones. Stay alert and devote your full attention to what you are doing and to who and what is around you.

## 9. REFUEL YOUR MOWER CAREFULLY!

Follow precautions outlined in the Operator's Manual when filling the lawn mower fuel tank. **DO NOT** smoke while filling the fuel tank. **DO NOT** fill the fuel tank indoors, or while the engine is hot or running. Wipe up any spilled fuel before starting or restarting the engine.

## 10. FOLLOW THESE ADDITIONAL MOWING INSTRUCTIONS

We recommend mowing only in dry conditions. If circumstances absolutely require mowing in wet conditions, be especially careful and ever-mindful that wet grass may not disperse or bag properly.

Wet grass can clump in the discharge area. If that occurs, shut off the engine before attempting to remove the grass from the discharge area.

There is also the possibility you might slip on wet grass and your foot might slide into the blade path.

We recognize that mowers will be used from time to time when the grass is wet. There may be little choice in areas of high humidity and/or frequent rainfalls. In those situations, it is up to you to be especially careful.

When using a walk behind mower, mow across a slope, **NEVER** up and down. **DO NOT** mow slopes greater than 20 degrees. (See Page 7 or Operator's Manual for slope chart.)

If the grass is excessively long, cut it high on the first pass. This will help to eliminate clumping of the grass in the discharge port and to expose and uncover any objects hidden in the high grass that could be thrown by the blade.

After picking up all visible objects, cut the grass a second time to the desired height.

If the blade comes in contact with a solid object, stop the engine. Wait for all moving parts to stop, remove the spark plug wire, and check the machine immediately. An abnormal vibration is a sign of trouble, and the mower should be repaired before you resume operation.

Push a walk-behind mower forward; **DO NOT** pull it backward toward your body.

Keep hands and other parts of the body away from the engine when it's hot to avoid a severe burn.



Mow the lawn only when there is daylight. **NEVER** leave the mower unattended while the engine is running.

**STOP** the mower engine each time it is necessary to change the height-of-cut or clear a plugged chute. Use a stick to clear the chute, not your hand.

The above precautions should add up to no more than 20 minutes each mowing season — 20 minutes that could possibly save toes and fingers.

## RIDING MOWERS

The safety instructions above also apply to riding mowers. In addition, the following rules apply specifically to riding mowers.

### 1. CARRY NO PASSENGERS!

**NEVER** allow passengers, especially a child on your lap, on any riding mower, in any cart, or on any implement being towed. This reduces your ability to control the mower and diverts



your attention from the mowing job at hand. Remember, there is always a risk that the child could slip and fall or jump off the mower.

### 2. USE CARE DURING SLOPE OPERATION

Slopes are a major factor related to loss of control and tip-over accidents, which can result in severe injury or death. Reduce speed and use extra caution on slopes. If you cannot back up the slope or if you feel uneasy on it, **DO NOT** mow it.

**NEVER** Operate a riding mower on slopes over 15 Degrees. (See page 7 or Operator's Manual for slope chart). Be aware that a loss of traction may occur going downhill. Weight transfer to the front wheels may cause drive wheels to slip and cause loss of braking and steering.

**DO NOT** mow slopes when grass is wet. Slippery conditions reduce traction and cause sliding and loss of control.

Use extreme care with grass catchers or other attachments. These can change the stability of the machine and cause loss of control.

**Caution:** If there is any doubt about tipping or losing control, stay off the slope.



To avoid a loss of control and possibility of a rollover follow these recommendations:

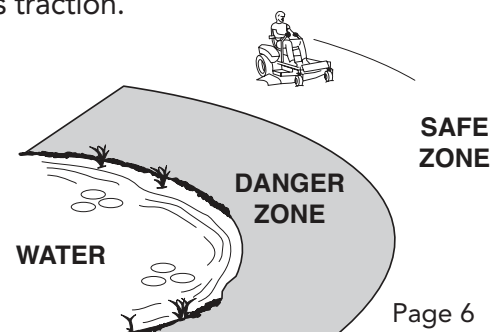
- Do Not mow near drop offs or water.
- Do Not mow slopes greater than 15 degrees.
- Reduce speed and use extra caution on slopes.
- When mowing slopes, gradually work from lower to higher areas on the incline.
- Avoid sudden turns or rapid speed changes.
- Turn up, into an incline when changing directions on slopes. Turning down the slope reduces traction.
- Use a walk-behind mower and/or a trimmer near drop-offs, ditches, steep banks or water.



**Caution:** If there is any doubt about tipping or losing control, stay off the slope.

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- Do Not mow near drop offs or water.
- Do Not mow slopes greater than 15 degrees.
- Reduce speed and use extra caution on slopes.
- When mowing slopes, gradually work from lower to higher areas on the incline.
- Avoid sudden turns or rapid speed changes.
- Turn up, into an incline when changing directions on slopes. Turning down the slope reduces traction.
- Use a walk-behind mower and/or a trimmer near drop-offs, ditches, steep banks or water.



For more information regarding the safe use of your Exmark mower:

VISIT US: [www.exmark.com](http://www.exmark.com)

OR E-MAIL: Customer Service — [service@exmark.com](mailto:service@exmark.com)

**OR WRITE US:**

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