



KEEP YOUR HANDS SAFE: FOLLOW LAWNMOWER SAFETY TIPS

Introduction

Each year, more than 74,000 small children, adolescents and adults are injured by rotary, hand and riding power mowers due to the improper handling of lawnmowers. It is the purpose of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand to provide you with patient information to help you avoid these injuries.

Injury Profile

Adults 25-64 years, Children under age five
22% involve wrist, hand or finger
14% involve foot, ankle or toes
25% of all hand and foot injuries result in amputation
Deaths occurred in children under six years of age

Common Injury Patterns

Direct contact with rotating or jammed blade
Serious avulsion (tearing/separating) injuries to soft tissue and bones
Gross contamination from contact with grass and soil harboring pathogens
Injuries requiring multiple staged surgeries to cleanse wounds and provide soft tissue coverage (to regenerate healthy tissue/skin)

Common Weather Conditions

Wet grass, damp ground

RECOMMENDATIONS... Lawnmowers are safe if used properly.

- **Read** your mower's instruction manual prior to use. **DO NOT REMOVE** safety devices or guards on switches.
- **NEVER** insert hands or feet into the mower to remove grass or debris. Even with the motor turned off the blade remains engaged.
- **ALWAYS** use a stick or broom handle to remove any obstruction.
- **NEVER** cut grass when it is wet or when the ground is damp.
- **NEVER** allow a child to operate the mower at any time or be in the area to be mowed.
- **NEVER** allow passengers, other than the operator, on riding mowers.

Keep your mower in good working order with sharp blades.

- **DO NOT DRINK** before or while using your lawnmower.
- **Wear** protective boots, goggles, gloves and long pants. Do not operate the lawnmower while barefoot.
- Be cautious when mowing hills or slopes.