



Safe Operating Procedure

WALK-BEHIND MOWER

Potential Hazards

- Noise. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment
- Rapidly rotating cutting blades
- Ejected material and flying debris

Pre-operational Safety Checks

1. Wear proper clothing and Personal Protective Equipment (solid footwear, long sleeves and trousers, hat).
2. Ensure mower is clean. Dirt, oil and debris contribute to fires.
3. Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional.
4. Ensure cutting blades are sharp, secure and in good condition. Damaged blades can cause a dangerous imbalance.
5. Repair or replace any loose, broken, missing or damaged parts.
6. Faulty equipment must not be used. Report suspect machinery.

Operational Safety Checks

1. Clear the area to be mowed of debris that may be thrown.
2. Be aware of the potential for ejected material and ensure that no person or animal is endangered when operating the mower.
3. Avoid mowing in wet conditions due to lack of traction.
4. Maintain a proper balance and secure footing when starting the mower.
5. Keep clear of moving machine parts.
6. Operate at a speed slow enough to keep control over unexpected hazards.
7. Mow in a forward direction.
8. When mowing on a slope, mow across the slope – this keeps a better distance between the operator and the mower in case of a slip.
9. Never leave the machine running unattended.
10. Always shut off the mower and allow it to come to a complete standstill before adjusting or clearing grass clogs.
11. Avoid spilling fuel on hot parts when refuelling. Use only approved safety containers to store fuel.
12. Turn off fuel supply when mowing has concluded or adjustments made.

Housekeeping

1. Clean away any oil and debris from in and around engine and catcher parts.
2. Keep the work area or implement shed in a clean and tidy condition.

Trainee: I have completed this SOP: Signature: _____ Date: _____	Trainer: Signature: _____ Date: _____
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