

# LESSON 2

# SAFETY PATROL

SPPSL40.3

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**12-18 YEAR OLDS**

## **PURPOSE**

To develop an appreciation for safety in relation to lawn care maintenance and to create safe lawn care habits.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Youth will be able to:

- identify danger spots on a lawn mower and in a yard.
- describe safe and unsafe mowing practices for the well-being of themselves and others.
- develop an emergency plan in case of an accident.

## **LIFE SKILLS**

Youth will develop:

- creative written and oral communication skills.
- cooperative group/teamwork skills.
- the ability to plan ahead to create a safe environment.

## **LESSON TIME**

Lesson time will vary, depending upon the learning activities selected and the size of the group. Lesson activities will also vary depending upon the number and age of youth. Most activities require approximately 30 minutes.

## **LEARNING ACTIVITIES** (with target participant age ranges)

WHAT'S YOUR SAFETY IQ? (12-18 years)  
SAFE OR UNSAFE? YOU DECIDE (12-18 years)  
"ROLE" WITH THE PUNCHES (12-14 years)  
PLAN AHEAD (12-18 years)  
BAND-AID (12-14 years)

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## ADVANCE PREPARATION

1. Review SAFETY PATROL...Background Basics.
2. Review activities and choose appropriate one(s) to use.
3. Secure necessary materials as described.

## Do

Be a SAFETY PATROL officer!

- ◆ Introduce safety in a fun, exciting way with a brainstorming activity.
- ◆ Test youth's lawn mower safety knowledge with WHAT'S YOUR SAFETY IQ? before viewing the Briggs & Stratton "Knowing Mowing" video.
- ◆ Assist youth in identifying lawn mower safety features and precautions in SAFE OR UNSAFE? YOU DECIDE activity.
- ◆ Creatively demonstrate safety practices in "ROLE" WITH THE PUNCHES, PLAN AHEAD and BAND-AID.

## REFLECT

After completing the activity, help youth reflect on what they have learned with these questions:

- ◆ Name 5 danger spots on a lawn mower.  
**Exhaust, blade, discharge chute, fuel tank, spark plug.**
- ◆ List 5 things to do BEFORE you mow.  
**Read owner's manual; learn how to control the mower; pick up yard debris; mark danger spots in the yard; fill the fuel tank.**
- ◆ List 5 unsafe lawn mowing procedures.  
**Pulling the mower, mowing without shoes, adjusting or unclogging the mower while it is running, wearing loose clothing, overfilling the fuel tank, trying to fix the mower without turning it off.**

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- ◆ What are the most common types of lawn care accidents?  
**Running over dangerous objects which fly out and hit you or others;  
running over or cutting off fingers and toes.**
- ◆ What would you do in case of an accident?

## APPLY

- ◆ Do you know anyone who has had an accident? Have you ever had an accident? What happened? What were you thinking about when it happened? Why do you think it happened? What might you have done to prevent it?
- ◆ Are there other things we use that are dangerous? How could they hurt us?
- ◆ Are there things we do which are dangerous? What could happen as a result of these dangerous activities?
- ◆ What can we do to avoid accidents in our lives?

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## BACKGROUND BASICS...Safety Patrol

The need for safety in the use of power equipment cannot be over-emphasized. Mowing accidents are some of the most common household accidents, injuring more than 60,000 people in the United States each year. To avoid mowing accidents, it is important to think ahead, pay attention to maintenance and use equipment properly. This lesson provides a variety of activities that illustrate the need for safety, demonstrate safe practices and alert youth to safety precautions.

Basic safety rules include proper mower maintenance and using pre-mowing procedures. Additionally, an important part of safety is planning ahead. This means not only cleaning up debris from the yard and maintaining the mower in good running condition but also knowing what to do in case of an accident. The **PLAN AHEAD** activity requires youth to develop an emergency plan outlining what they should do in case of an accident.

In the following activities, youth will identify such danger spots on a lawn mower as the blade, exhaust area and grass chute. Standard safety features on lawn mowers will also be identified, including the chute cover and the safety handle (referred to as the kill switch or deadman's clutch on many models). Youth should also be able to describe safe and unsafe mowing practices.

## WORKBOOK OVERVIEW

**YIELD** Workbook page 6.

An activity that teaches the importance of being alert. Youth learn that they cannot always react as quickly as they would like to in all situations.

**SAFE OR UNSAFE? YOU DECIDE** Workbook activity page 7.

An activity to make the youth aware of what they know and don't know about safety. There are several unsafe mowing practices that youth may have observed from others. One of your challenges is helping them do what they know is best...to not follow unsafe practices they see of others. These include wearing unsafe clothing, overfilling the fuel tank or filling while the engine is hot or on, pulling the mower and adjusting, repairing or unclogging the mower while it's running. The most common types of lawn accidents include running over dangerous objects which fly out and hit the operator or others nearby and running over or cutting off fingers and toes.

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**BEWARE OF MOWER** Workbook page 8.

Identifying dangerous parts of a power mower should be the first activity you do with youth prior to any mowing demonstrations or use of the equipment. Here are the danger spots to point out.

**Exhaust**

Locate exhaust pipe to prevent burns.

**Blade**

Never inspect while mower is running.

**Discharge Chute**

Must have deflector in place. Never put hands near area when mower is running.

**Fuel Tank**

Fill only  $\frac{3}{4}$  full and only when engine is cool.

**Spark Plug**

Always disconnect before working on machine.

**Rear Deflector Shield (Guard)**

Must be down and in good condition. Rear deflectors prevent feet from getting under mower and prevents objects from flying up at operator.

**MOWING SAFETY CHECKLIST** Workbook pages 9 and 10.

**Before you mow...**

Read the mower owner's manual before you use it. This will help you understand how to use the mower safely and correctly. This is a good policy for any tool.

Make sure you are ready and fit to work. You won't be able to concentrate if you are sick or tired.

Check the weather forecast. It's dangerous to you and harmful to the grass to mow if the lawn is wet. You may slip and fall. Wet grass also clogs the discharge chute causing equipment problems. Also beware of the heat index. Make sure you bring plenty of water to drink so you don't become dehydrated while you work.

Dress carefully and appropriately. Wear long pants and sleeves, heavy duty shoes, tinted safety glasses, and ear protection. Do not operate the mower in shorts, loose clothing,

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sandals, or in bare feet. Always wear sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) and a wide brim hat to protect the back of your neck and ears from the sun. Skin cancer may not seem important to you now, but it is expensive to treat and quite painful.

Keep your mower clean. Before touching the blade, disconnect the spark plug. Remove any grass or leaves still on the blade or in the chute after mowing. This will help keep the blade sharp and extend the life of your mower by reducing metal corrosion.

Walk the lawn area to be mowed. Remove anything the mower might pick up and throw like sticks, rocks, pine cones, toys, balls, dog bones. Note the areas you should NOT mow over—gravel, pipes, sprinklers, exposed roots or sidewalk edges. Discuss other areas that should be avoided. Use flags or other marker to point out dangerous objects or spots in the yard so that you do not mow too close to them.

Keep pets and children inside the house and out of the area to be mowed. This way you can concentrate on what you are doing instead of worrying about their safety.

Make sure you have enough daylight to complete the job.

### **Prepare the mower...**

Be sure to focus on this aspect of safety. Many youth do not demonstrate accurate knowledge/practice of these safety precautions (as evidenced from our pilot-tests of this material). The WHAT DO I KNOW? quiz on Workbook page 4 should have given you some indication of this for your group.

Be sure all safety devices (such as automatic shut off devices, rear guards, etc.) are working. Inspect all equipment. Make sure nothing is loose or broken. First, disconnect the spark plug before you begin. Check the mower for loose nuts, bolts, or screws. Be sure the blade is tight. Keep all shields and safety devices in place.

Check oil and fuel levels. Do not allow anyone to smoke while you're fueling or mowing.

Handle fuel with extreme care. Keep in mind some mowers use a combination of oil and gas as fuel.

Always fill the fuel tank outdoors, but not on the grass. Remember, gasoline readily vaporizes and it is the gasoline vapors that are dangerous. Only fill your fuel tank  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with fuel-leaving slosh (air) space—because vapors expand when heated. It is dangerous to fill the tank when the engine is hot, so take a break when it is time to refuel. Allow the engine to cool for at least 10-15 minutes. Fuel spilled on a hot engine could catch fire. Remind youth that this would be an opportune time to take a well deserved break. They

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can cool down while the machinery cools down! A fuel spill on a spark plug or fuel trapped in the connector could ignite the mower on start-up so wipe up spills immediately.

Never fill a gas can in the bed of a truck that has a bed liner. There have been a number of injuries resulting from fires in this situation. Apparently the plastic bed liner prevents the static charge generated by the gasoline flowing into a metal can from grounding. As the charge builds, it can create a static spark between the can and the gas nozzle, igniting the gasoline and causing a fire or explosion. Both Ford and Chevron have a safety warning to this effect.

Store fuel in a sealed, marked, approved container away from heat generating sources. NEVER store gasoline in a glass jug or an unapproved plastic container.

### **Starting the mower...**

Move the mower to the lawn that you are going to mow.

Adjust the mower to the proper mowing height. On most mowers, mowing height is adjusted by raising or lowering the wheels. Mention to youth that correct mowing height is the key to creating a successful mowing business. It will be discussed in LESSON 4: MOW LIKE A PRO in detail (Workbook pages 17 and 18).

To start most older mowers with pull-start ropes, stand with your foot firmly on mower housing. Keep your other foot away from the blades. This way, if the mower “jumps” or “kicks,” you are still in control of the mower. Keep the starter rope from snapping back. On most newer models, you stand behind the mower to pull the starter rope and won't need to place either foot on the mower housing. Remember to disengage the drive and clutch first if your mower is self-propelled.

Learn how to control the mower. Be sure you know how to stop the engine properly. Become familiar with all controls and their operation.

### **While you mow...**

Take your time and keep proper footing and balance.

Pay attention and stay clear of the discharge chute and the blade housing. If you do hit an object, turn off the mower and clear the object from your work area. If the object is wrapped around the blade, be sure to disconnect the spark plug wire before clearing it from the blade area.

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Turn off the mower even if you only plan to leave it for a second. Disconnect the spark plug wire to prevent someone else from starting the mower.

Stop the mower blade before crossing sidewalks or driveways. The blade may chip the concrete or damage the mower deck. It may even cause pieces of debris to fly out and hurt you or others nearby.

**Never** attempt to adjust the belts or remove trash from the mower while it is running or while the motor is still hot. You could lose a few fingers or get seriously burned.

## **MOWER DIFFERENCES** Workbook page 11

### **With electric mowers...**

Mow away from the cord. Don't mow over it.

Use only plugs with 3 prongs when mowing with electric mowers or other equipment. Also, use a GFI device (Ground Fault Interrupter) between the electrical outlet and the mower. Do not use non-approved UL (Underwriters Laboratory) electric powered equipment. Use recommended, grounded extension cords. Don't use worn, frayed or damaged ones.

To keep from being shocked or electrocuted, don't use electric mowers on wet grass.

Always turn off the mower and disconnect any cords when you finish. Unplug the cord correctly.

### **With any walk-behind mowers...**

Mow forward. Do not pull it toward you!

Mow across the slope (see example on page 11 of Workbook).

### **With riding mowers...**

Operate it only from the driver's seat.

Keep both feet on the machine.

Don't speed!! You'll damage the turf with wheel marks.

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Be aware of what's going on around you.

Mow with (up and down) the slope, as long as it's not too steep (you don't want to roll over).

Don't take passengers.

Allow blade to stop completely before leaving mower.

## **SAFETY WITH POWER MOWERS** Workbook activity page 12

An activity to reinforce the mower parts and related items taught in the previous pages.

## **MORE INFORMATION FROM BRIGGS AND STRATTON**

Briggs & Stratton Corporation, in cooperation with the American Red Cross, produced an 8½ minute VHS video demonstrating safe and environmentally proper methods of lawn care. This video, titled "Knowing Mowing," can be borrowed from the IFAS Media Library for University of Florida affiliated programs only. Ask for VT1253 ("Knowing Mowing").

**SUGGESTED AGE:** 12-18 years

**OBJECTIVES:** Youth will be able to:

- locate the danger spots on a mower.
- describe safe ways to mow lawns.

**LIFE SKILLS:**

- Recognize and practice safety.
- Avoid unsafe situations which could cause injury.

**MATERIALS:** Briggs & Stratton\* "Knowing Mowing" video  
VCR and TV  
Copies of WHAT'S YOUR SAFETY IQ? activity sheet for each youth  
Pens/pencils  
WHAT DO I KNOW? Workbook activity page 4  
YIELD Workbook activity page 6 (optional)

**TIME:** 30 minutes

**SETTING:** A comfortable room with tables and chairs.

**SUGGESTIONS:**  
Have each youth prepare 2 questions to ask from video

## **INTRODUCTION**

Carelessness is costly! I'd like each of you to bend down and untie one shoe lace. If you are not wearing lace-up shoes, team up with someone who is.

Hold up the hand you write with. With that hand, make a fist, with your thumb on the inside. Now try to retie your shoe using one good hand and one fist. Can you do it? One moment of carelessness will cost you a lifetime of difficulty.

If time permits, youth can try YIELD Workbook activity page 6.

Why do you think lawn mowing accidents happen?

**Have youth list reasons.**

What can we do to make sure they don't happen to us?

**List safety precautions the group identifies.**

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\* The use of trade names in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of the products named and does not signify that they are approved to the exclusion of others.

These are some of the issues and questions we will explore in the Briggs & Stratton “Knowing Mowing” video. Let's see how our lists compare.

## Do

### WHAT'S YOUR SAFETY IQ?

- ◆ Review the WHAT'S YOUR SAFETY IQ? activity sheet. Instruct youth to answer the questions if they can.
- ◆ Watch the Briggs & Stratton “Knowing Mowing” video and respond/check their “Safety IQ”.
- ◆ Check and review the answers. Compare this quiz and their answers to the safety questions from WHAT DO I KNOW? on Workbook page 4 from the first meeting.

## REFLECT

- ◆ How did you score on your Safety IQ? Have you learned anything new since the first meeting?
- ◆ What are some of the safety rules mentioned in the video?  
**Don't wear loose clothing, keep children and dogs away.**
- ◆ What are some of the things you should do BEFORE you mow?  
**Remove toys, sticks, stones and old dog bones; inspect mower; put fuel in the tank.**
- ◆ Why should we mulch or compost yard waste rather than use a bagging attachment and send grass clippings to the landfill?  
**Landfills are filling up faster than we can create new ones! In some states it is illegal to place lawn clippings in the landfill. Lawn clippings also add nutrients to the soil; composted yard waste can be used in gardens and flower beds.**
- ◆ Where should you start a mower?  
**On the grass**
- ◆ What should you do in case of an accident?  
**Turn off the mower, stop the bleeding and call for help.**

- ◆ When you call for help, what information should you give?  
**Location, phone number, number of people injured, what happened, and what's happening now. Remember: HANG UP LAST after the dispatcher at the end of the conversation. The dispatcher may need more information.**

## **A**PPLY

- ◆ What are some of the safety rules in your home?
- ◆ What are some of the things your family can do before leaving your home to increase your safety?

**WHAT'S YOUR SAFETY IQ?****Answers**

1. **Safety Rules:** Wear safe clothing; store gasoline in safe containers; always disconnect spark plug before checking mower; let mower cool at least 10 minutes-before refueling; do not let children or pets come close to area.
2. **Safety Practices BEFORE you MOW:** Read owner's manual; learn how to control the mower; pick up yard debris; mark danger spots in the yard; fill the gas tank to an appropriate level.
3. **False.** Only fill your fuel tank  $\frac{3}{4}$  full because gasoline vapors expand when heated.
4. **False.** Allow the engine to cool for about 10 minutes. Gasoline spilled on a hot engine could catch fire. Fuel spilled on a spark plug or trapped in the connector could ignite the mower.
5. **True.** Shut off the mower when you cross a driveway or sidewalk because a stone or another object could get kicked up and flung out of the mower, which is dangerous and not good for the blade.
6. The engine muffler can reach up to 1200°F.
7. **(A)** When using a push mower, mow across the incline to maintain proper balance and footing. If you try to mow up hill, the mower could roll backward over you. Mowing downhill, you could slip and fall under the mower. But remember to mow up and down with a riding mower (as long as it's not too steep), which is heavy and could slip going side to side.
8. **False.** Never mow over any items on the lawn. These objects could be kicked up and out of the mower. Always clear the entire yard, including sidewalks and driveway, of any sticks, stones, debris, toys and especially pets and other people.
9. **False.** Never let anyone ride with you on a riding mower. They could fall off and be run over or injured by the blade, discharged objects or wheels.
10. **(C)** When turning the mower, always keep all four wheels on the ground. Tipping the mower exposes that deadly blade and pulling it towards you can throw you off balance.

# What's Your Safety IQ?

1. What are some safety rules you need to follow to protect yourself, others, and your business?

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2. List 3 things you should do BEFORE you mow.

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3. Be sure to fill the tank completely full before beginning to mow.  
TRUE FALSE

4. As soon as the gas tank runs out you can refill it.  
TRUE FALSE

5. You should turn off the mower every time you cross a sidewalk or driveway  
TRUE FALSE

6. How hot can a lawn mower muffler get while running?  
a. 100°F.      b. 500°F.      c. 800°F.      d. 1200°F.

7. When using a push mower, always mow a slope or hill:  
a. across the incline  
b. up and down the incline  
c. in either direction-both are safe

8. It is safe to mow over small sticks and other items on the lawn.  
TRUE FALSE

9. It's OK to let someone ride on the back of a riding mower.  
TRUE FALSE

10. How do you safely mow around a tree?  
a. Tip the mower as you move around a tree.  
b. Pull the mower toward you periodically.  
c. Keep all four wheels on the ground as you turn.

## How did you do?

**Ten correct:** You can cut it!

**Fewer than ten correct:** Please don't take the chance of injuring yourself or others by improperly using outdoor power equipment. Review the safety information with your leader and retake the test. When you achieve a perfect score, you are prepared to operate a mower!



**SUGGESTED AGE:** 12-18 years

**OBJECTIVES:** Youth will be able to:

- identify 10 safe and 10 unsafe mowing procedures.
- identify 5 danger spots on a mower.
- describe safe and dangerous environments.

**LIFE SKILLS:**

- Group cooperative work.
- Consensus building skills.

**MATERIALS:** SAFE OR UNSAFE? YOU DECIDE Workbook activity page 7.  
BEWARE OF MOWER! Workbook page 8.  
THE MOWING SAFETY CHECKLIST Workbook pages 9 and 10.  
SAFETY WITH POWER MOWERS Workbook activity page 12.  
Pens/pencils

**TIME:** 30 minutes

**SETTING:** A comfortable room with tables and chairs.

## INTRODUCTION

Guess how many lawn mowing accidents there were last year?

**Let everyone offer a number. On average, there are over 60,000 lawn mower accidents in the U.S. every year!**

What do you think could happen to you if you had an accident with a mower or another lawn care tool?

**Eye injuries, loss of fingers or toes, cuts.**

Why do you think these accidents happen?

**Carelessness, fatigue, distraction, ignorance, poor tool maintenance**

How can we reduce the chance of accidents?

**Be prepared!**

**Think ahead!**

**Wear personal protective equipment! (gloves, tinted safety glasses, ear protectors, heavy-duty shoes, etc.see Workbook page 9).**

## **Do**

- ◆ Divide youth into small groups of 3 or 4 people.
- ◆ Have each group complete the SAFE OR UNSAFE? YOU DECIDE activity on Workbook page 7.
- ◆ Let each group share a corrected response.
- ◆ Have each individual within the groups identify the top 5 danger spots on the mower in the BEWARE OF MOWER! Workbook Activity on page 8.
- ◆ Now, have the individuals within the group share their top five and ask them to come to a consensus, as a group, on their top 5.
- ◆ Have each group explain their results and the basis of their decisions.

## **REFLECT**

- ◆ Why are lawn mowers dangerous?
- ◆ What is the MOST dangerous part on a mower?  
**The blade.**
- ◆ What are five other danger spots on a lawn mower?  
**Exhaust; discharge chute; fuel tank; spark plug; rear deflector (guard).**
- ◆ What do you think is the most common cause of lawn mower accidents?  
**Carelessness.**
- ◆ Do you know anyone who has had a lawn mower accident? What happened?

**APPLY**

- ◆ What does safety mean to you? Use adjectives to describe it.
- ◆ What does “danger” mean?
- ◆ What makes you feel safe?
- ◆ Are there places or situations you can describe that are dangerous?
- ◆ What can you do now to prepare yourself for those dangerous situations?
- ◆ Have youth read THE MOWING SAFETY CHECKLIST on Workbook pages 9 and 10 together. The youth should be encouraged to re-read these pages each time they are about to start their mower. Post these pages in a place that allows for easy review.
- ◆ Complete SAFETY WITH POWER MOWERS Workbook activity page 12 to test your safety knowledge.

**SAFE OR UNSAFE? YOU DECIDE****(answers to Workbook page 7...abbreviated answers on Workbook page 39)**

Underline the “unsafe” part of these sentences. Write below each statement what you need to do to make it a “safe” practice. Review your answers with your leader before mowing.

1. Always wear loose, comfortable clothing like shorts and sandals.  
**Wear long pants, sturdy closed-toe shoes and no loose clothing.**
2. Most lawn mowers work the same way. Therefore, if you have used another mower, it is not necessary to read the owner's manual.  
**Most lawn mowers are different, therefore it is necessary to read the instructions.**
3. Store gasoline in recycled bottles or cans in your garage.  
**Gasoline should be stored in a safe container specifically designed to hold it.**
4. Make sure you fill the fuel tank all the way to the top.  
**Gas vapors expand, therefore, only fill tank ¾ full.**
5. It's a good idea to mow just after it rains because grass grows quickly.  
**It's not a good idea. Wet grass will stick together and clog your mower; it also can cause lawn damage and contributes to the spread of disease. Also, there is an increased risk of operator injury by slipping and falling.**
6. If the mower gets stuck on something, lift it up and clear out the obstruction with your hand.  
**If your mower gets stuck, turn it off and wait until the blade stops spinning. Disconnect the spark plug, tip it up slightly (so you don't spill any fuel) and clear out whatever's obstructing it.**
7. Always mow uphill with a walk behind mower and across hills with a riding mower.  
**It's just the reverse. Mow across hills with a push mower and up and down the hill with a riding mower (unless the hill is too steep). Have youth refuse job if too steep.**
8. Don't upset your customers by having their children and dogs move indoors while you are mowing.  
**Your customers will not be upset at all if you're looking out for their pet's or children's safety by asking them to move indoors.**
9. Mowers are sturdy pieces of equipment. If you see small sticks and pine cones in the yard, it's OK to mow over them.  
**Never mow over sticks or cones or anything but grass since such items can be thrown out and cause injury. This practice will also dull the mower blade.**
10. When mowing, make sure you are thorough. Push the mower away from you and then pull it back toward you to make sure all of the grass is cut.  
**Never pull a mower backwards toward your feet.**

**SUGGESTED AGE:** 12-14 years

**OBJECTIVES:** Youth will be able to:

- describe safe and unsafe mowing practices.
- communicate their ideas of safety to others.

**LIFE SKILLS:**

- Cooperation skills through group work.
- Creative communication skills.

**MATERIALS:** MOWING SAFETY CHECKLIST Workbook pages 9 and 10  
MOWER DIFFERENCES Workbook page 11  
SAFE OR UNSAFE? YOU DECIDE Workbook activity page 7  
Copies of "ROLE WITH THE PUNCHES" Situation activities  
Pens/pencils  
Scissors

**TIME:** 30 minutes

**SETTING:** A comfortable room with space for role-playing skits.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Since so many people are hurt in lawn mowing accidents each year, let's identify the ways mowing is unsafe or dangerous. Is the mower dangerous, or the way we mow? How can we make mowing safer? In this role playing activity, we will explore some of the ways we can mow more safely, and some ways not to mow.

## **Do**

“ROLE” WITH THE PUNCHES with a safety role play!

- ◆ Divide youth into two groups.
- ◆ Give each group one of the role playing situations and 15-20 minutes to work out a role playing activity.
- ◆ One group will act out a safe lawn mowing scenario and the other a dangerous scenario.
- ◆ Discuss the events.

## **R**EFLECT

- ◆ What are some of the dangers of lawn mowing? What are some dangerous ways to mow?
- ◆ What are some ways we can mow more safely?
- ◆ Do you know anyone who has had a lawn mowing accident? What happened?

## **A**PPLY

- ◆ What are some other dangerous tools we use or activities we experience?
- ◆ What can we do to make these experiences safer or to avoid dangerous situations?
- ◆ Generate opportunities and encourage youth to communicate safety precautions to others. Examples might include:
  - Prepare a demonstration/illustrative talk to present to community groups.
  - Prepare an exhibit/poster to demonstrate safe practices and display at local home and garden businesses.
  - Write and present skits to other youth.
  - Sponsor a safety clinic in your community.

# *“Role” with the Punches Situations*

## **Situation #1**

Charlie (or Charlotte) Careless and some of his/her friends have a lawn care business. They may not be in business for long, though. They do some really dumb things. Prepare and present a skit, showing at least 3 of the dumb things they do.

Hint: See SAFE OR UNSAFE? YOU DECIDE (Workbook activity page 7).

## **Situation #2**

Sam (or Samantha) Safeway and some of his/her friends have a lawn care business. They are always sure to prepare the area to be mowed, and to operate equipment in such a way as to ensure their safety and that of others in the area. Prepare and present a skit, showing at least three of the safe things they do.

Hint: See MOWING SAFETY CHECKLIST (Workbook pages 9 and 10) and MOWER DIFFERENCES (Workbook page 11).



**SUGGESTED AGE:** 12-18 years

**OBJECTIVES:** Youth will be able to:

- create their own safety plan.
- plan and create a safe work environment.

**LIFE SKILLS:**

- Critical thinking skills.
- Communication skills.

**MATERIALS:** Pens/pencils  
Copies of the EMERGENCY SAFETY CARD activity sheet for each youth  
Easel pad and markers  
Scrap paper  
Scissors  
As many art supplies as possible (colored paper, posterboard, glue, tape, paint, etc.)  
Clear plastic adhesive (laminating material)

**TIME:** 30-45 minutes

**SETTING:** A comfortable room with tables and chairs.

## INTRODUCTION

What would you do if you had an accident while mowing the lawn? Who would you call? What if you were knocked unconscious? What would happen then? How can you plan ahead to make sure you will receive help in case of an accident? What kinds of things could we do before we mow to make sure we will be safe? In this activity, each of us will **PLAN AHEAD** and make an emergency plan in case of an accident.

## Do

Use your head-**PLAN AHEAD!**

- ◆ For youth 12-14 years of age, make a safety plan by creating their own safety poster.
- ◆ For youth 14 and older, have them determine the closest emergency care center/hospital, etc. Draw out directions to get there.
- ◆ Each youth should present their poster to the group and explain their ideas.
- ◆ Make an Emergency First Aid Kit to carry with you on lawn care jobs.

## REFLECT

After completing the activity, help youth reflect on what they have learned with these questions:

- ◆ What were some of the common things which you all thought to include in your safety plans?
- ◆ Is there anything you missed?
- ◆ Will you feel better prepared in case you have an accident? What steps should you take?
- ◆ What will you do if someone else has an accident?

## APPLY

- ◆ Use the phone book to help you make an emergency safety card to carry with you at all times while you are on the job. Use the EMERGENCY SAFETY CARD activity sheet provided or have youth create their own. Cover with the clear plastic adhesive to protect and preserve. Note: This is the size of a dollar bill so it can fit inside their wallet.
- ◆ Look into taking Basic First Aid and CPR classes. Call the American Red Cross or school. Surf for a site on the Internet that might have information. Ask your doctor and/or pharmacist about other places in the community that might offer this type of emergency training.

Help youth think about these same concepts applied to other areas of their life. What other ways can they Plan Ahead and use their heads?

- ◆ What kind of a safety plan could you make to avoid getting in trouble with your parents? With the police?
- ◆ What are some of the most common kinds of danger you face everyday?
- ◆ Could a safety plan help you avoid or deal with these situations better?

# *Emergency Safety Card*

## **Emergency Safety Card**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fold here**

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## **Local Community Emergency Information**

Do you have 911 service in your town? \_\_\_\_\_

Fire/Ambulance: \_\_\_\_\_

Police: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_

My allergies: \_\_\_\_\_



**SUGGESTED AGE:** 12-14 years

**OBJECTIVES:** Youth will be able to:

- recognize safe and unsafe practices.
- realize that safety can be FUN.

**LIFE SKILLS:**

- Communication skills
- Persuasion techniques.
- Presentation skills.

**MATERIALS:** Workbook pages 6-12 [SAFETY PATROL]  
Easel pad or chalk board  
Marker

**TIME:** 30 minutes

**SETTING:** A comfortable room with tables and chairs.

**SUGGESTIONS:**  
Ask youth to bring in some of their favorite music on cassette tapes or CDs with a cassette or CD player.

## INTRODUCTION

What does safety mean to you?

**List some adjectives to describe safety (list on an easel pad for youth to refer to).**

What does danger mean to you?

**List some more adjectives to describe danger.**

Do you know anyone who has had a lawn mowing accident? How did these accidents happen? What can we do to avoid them? In this activity we will use the adjectives and the accident avoidance skills we have discussed to write safety songs that help others think safety!

## **Do**

Rock out with BAND-AID!

- ◆ Divide youth into groups.
- ◆ Each group can pick their own musical style and create their own rap/song using the adjectives listed in the class discussion and information from Workbook pages 6-12 [SAFETY PATROL].
- ◆ Regroup and have each group perform their safety rap song.

## **REFLECT**

- ◆ What were some of the safe and unsafe practices mentioned in each song?
- ◆ If you are mowing a lawn, what will you do to make sure you don't have an accident?  
**Let everyone offer one suggestion.**
- ◆ Have you ever had other kinds of accidents? Why did they happen? What did you learn?

## **APPLY**

- ◆ What are some other dangerous tools we use?
- ◆ How can we learn to use them safely?
- ◆ What is the most dangerous situation you have ever been in? What happened? How did you get out of it? What did you learn from it? What would you do differently?