

Protecting Our Parishes, Missions, and Schools

Landscape Maintenance Hazards

Landscape Maintenance can require some dangerous activities. As passive as cutting grass may seem, it really does require special training and adherence to safety precautions to keep workers from minor and life-threatening injuries. A list of lawn maintenance safety tips can never be complete. What one person regards as an "obvious" danger will catch another quite unaware. Periodic safety reviews will minimize risks for both staff members and volunteers.

General Safety Tips

- Match skill level with task.
- Know how to operate the equipment. Read the operator's manual before using any power equipment.
- Handle gas carefully. Fill up before you start and when the engine is cool. Watch for hot mufflers.
- Clear the area before you mow. Always remove stones, sticks and other objects from the area so that objects won't fly up and hit anyone. The most common injuries are from debris flying up.
- Dress properly, wearing substantial shoes, long pants and close-fitting clothes.
- Wear hearing protection to prevent potentially damaging sounds from reaching your ears.
- Wear eye protection to prevent injury from projectiles.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Hedge Trimmer

- **Hazards** – electricity or gasoline, heavy, sharp cutting surfaces, noise
- **PPE** – gloves, hearing protection, dust mask



Lawn Mowers

- **Hazards** – gasoline, rotating sharp blades, noise, dust, flying rocks
- **PPE** – long pants and shirt, eye protection, hearing protection, steel-toed boots, wait 10 minutes before refueling



Weed Trimmers

- **Hazards** – heavy, gasoline, rotating cutting line or blades, noise, dust, flying rocks
- **PPE** - long pants and shirt, eye protection, hearing protection, steel-toed boots

Machete/Tree Saw

- **Hazards** – sharp cutting surfaces
- **PPE** – gloves, eye protection, boots



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