

Groundskeeping work can be hazardous. Mowers and other landscaping equipment have cutting surfaces, rotating parts, and hot engine parts, and they can expel rocks and debris. In addition, many other hazards may be present and can be unseen due to large and loud machinery used in groundskeeping operations. These hazards could not only injure employees or damage property, but they can become quite costly. Since January 2021, Risk Pool Members experience over \$320,000 in total claims costs when employees suffered poison ivy, insect, or bee stings. Protect employees from injury and prevent property damage by considering the following tips:

1

Engine and Parts. Allow hot engines and components to cool before refueling, and use a funnel to prevent spills when needed. Keep cigarettes and any ignition sources away from fuel and equipment at all times. Always shut down and disable equipment completely before servicing.

2

Use Your Machine Appropriately. Follow the manufacturer's manual, use only approved attachments, and stay within load ratings and slope limits. Ride-on equipment is built for one operator only, and rollover protection and seatbelts should be used when equipped. Stay alert to overhead power lines, unstable ground conditions, and environmental hazards such as insects or wildlife.

3

Strains and Sprains. Repetitive tasks and awkward positioning can lead to cumulative injuries over time. Use ergonomically designed tools and accessories, such as shoulder straps for trimmers, to reduce daily strain on the back and shoulders.

4

Protect Your Skin and Hydrate. Use sunscreen appropriate for your work conditions and wear long sleeves, pants, and a wide-brimmed hat to limit sun exposure. Stay hydrated throughout the day with water and electrolyte drinks and avoid excessive caffeine or sugary beverages.

5

Personal Protective Equipment. Wear slip-resistant footwear, impact-resistant eye protection with side shields, and proper hearing protection when operating equipment. Long sleeves and pants also help protect against poison ivy and other plants that can cause skin irritation.



LEARN MORE WITH THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- CDC [Three Tips for Choosing the Right Hearing Protector](#)
- TDI [Riding Lawnmower Safety](#)
- [Training Video Now: Lawnmower Safety](#)