


Work Health And Safety: Safe Work Practice: Garden & Maintenance

Lawn mower operation

 Risks	Risk Level	Risk Controls
Damage to ears from noise of lawn mower	Likelihood: D Consequence: 2 Rating = HIGH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrict clients, animals and public from work area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ear protection to be worn by workers.
Damage to eyes and other parts of body from particles blown by lawn mower	Likelihood: B Consequence: 3 Rating = HIGH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrict clients, animals and public from work area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eye protection to be worn by worker. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries.
Manual handling injury from moving or using the lawn mower or refueling on ground	Likelihood: D Consequence: 2 Rating = High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff competent in manual handling
Damage to property or animals from particles blown by lawn mower	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to assess environment and remove or isolate potential targets. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrict clients and public from work area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries.
Fire or explosion from petrol fumes	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refuelling outdoors only and only when engine is OFF – no smoking and clean up any petrol spill before starting the engine, petrol to be kept in shade and container closed when not in use. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire extinguisher to be kept close to the refuelling area. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries.
Poisoning from petrol	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure that when not in use petrol container is kept in the van or ute out of reach of children
Dangerous carbon monoxide fumes if lawn mower operated in confined space.	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not operate lawn mower in a confined or unventilated space
Injury to worker's feet or hands coming in contact with moving mower blades	Likelihood: E Consequence: 3 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Machine designed to make contact with moving blades very difficult. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff educated in risk. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries
Injury to worker from hazards in the setting	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff to assess environment and remove or isolate potential hazards e.g. branches at head height and low branches that block sight of area to be mown. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> When working near road/ footpath the operator or if necessary a watchperson will monitor pedestrian/ traffic and work to cease if an unauthorised person comes within 10 metres of the machine.

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit available for prompt treatment of injuries
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<i>Mercy Services equipment</i>	<i>Others equipment</i>
lawn mower, fuel, oil, fire extinguisher (CO ²), mobile phone, yard work gloves, sunscreen, Manufacturer’s instruction manual Personal Protective Equipment required: ear protection, eye protection, trousers, work boots,	

Activity	Worker behaviour	Client/other’s behaviour
Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure you are familiar with the handbook of instructions for use of the lawn mower 2. Visually check the area you will be working and clear away stones, sticks, wire and other loose objects. 3. While still on the ute check that the lawn mower is clean and free of grass and build-up 4. Also check that the cutting blade is not bent, cracked, dull or worn (replace if needed) 5. Also check that air filter is clean (use brush to clean if needed) 6. Also check petrol (top up while mower is still on ute tray if needed) 7. Apply Personal Protective Equipment 8. Transport the lawn mower to the work area 9. Move the lawnmower at least three metres from the fuelling area before starting it up. 10. Only start work if sure there will be enough daylight for the duration of work. 11. Ensure other people are at least 10 metres away from where you are working and ask workmate to be observant of any people who enter the area. 12. Always attach the catcher when mowing nature strips or near vehicles (to prevent damage from propelled stones) 	
Operation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn on lawnmower, according to the instruction manual directions. 2. Keep hands and feet well away from the blades. 3. Place one hand on the machine and operate the starter with the other hand. 4. Ensure your footing is solid. 5. Walk, never run. 6. Work across slopes, never up and down them. 7. Take care of footing on slopes or wet ground. 8. Only cut at a pace and blade height that the machine can handle. 	There should be no unauthorised/unprotected people within 10 metres of the lawn mower when in operation.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Always keep the mower on the ground when mowing. Tilting or lifting the lawnmower may cause stones to be thrown out. 10. Never lift or carry the lawnmower while it is running. 11. Rotate jobs or take rest breaks every 30 minutes to prevent fatigue 12. Stop and switch off the engine if you hit an object. 13. Do not use the machine again until you are sure that the entire machine is safe to operate. 14. Do not use lawn mower if is making unusual noise or vibration 	
<p>Completion</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the throttle setting during engine shut-down and if the engine has a shut-off valve, turn the fuel off at the conclusion of working. 2. Stop the engine whenever you leave the machine. 3. Allow the machine to cool if storing in a confined space 4. Clean machine 5. Store machine in a ventilated area 	

As at 05/03/2015 this Safe Work Practice is authorised for use in:

<i>Service</i>	<i>Position</i>
Home Maintenance	Gardener/Maintenance Assistant
Home Maintenance	Maintenance Assistant

Date for review of safe work practice: March 2018 (or if injury or changes require)

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COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

Lawn mower operation

Employee _____

Assessor _____

Date _____

Desired Outcome:

To use lawn mower to cut grass without injury

Knowledge required:

Worker must have read manufacturers operating manual for the lawn mower

Performance Criteria	Competence demonstrated	Comment
Preparation		
Familiarise self with instruction manual for machine		
Check work area and remove hazards		
Transport lawn mower safely		
Check machine is clear of build-up		
Check blade is in good condition (replace if needed)		
Check fuel tank is full (refill if needed)		
Move the lawnmower at least three metres from the fuelling area before starting it up.		
Apply Personal Protective Equipment		
Only start work when sufficient time		
Ensure area is clear of unauthorised people		
Always attach the catcher when mowing nature strips or near vehicles		
Operation		
Turn on machine		
Keep hands and feet well away from the blades.		
Ensure your footing is solid.		
Maintain attention to job		
Hold machine with both hands and keep the blade or cutting cord well clear of your body.		
Ensure stable footing		
Walk – never run		
Exercise caution on sloping or wet ground		
Only cut at a pace and blade height that the machine cannot handle.		
Always keep the mower on the ground when mowing.		
Rotate jobs after 30 minutes		
Stop and switch off engine if an object is hit		

Do not use machine after hitting an object unless you are sure it is safe		
Do not use machine if is making unusual noise or vibration		
Completion		
Reduce the throttle setting during engine shut-down and if the engine has a shut-off valve, turn the fuel off at the conclusion of working.		
Stop engine when leaving the machine		
Allow machine to cool if storing in a confined space		
Clean machine		
Store machine in a ventilated area		

Is the worker assessed as being competent? YES NO

Any required follow up action/training:

Signature of employee..... Date.....

Signature of assessor Date.....