

A Safe Workplace

A Workplace Safety and Health Manual for Your Community

Section: III-E	Rules Procedures, Practices and Guidelines	Page 1 of 1
		Approved By: Harvey Bostrom
Subject: VLE-20	Operating a Riding Lawn Mower	Effective: May 31, 2008
		Revised: April 1, 2011

PPE Required: Steel toe boots, safety glasses, hearing protection, hard hat, gloves, long pants, long sleeved shirt, sunscreen, insect repellent

Warning:

- Wear close fitting clothes
- Read and understand the owner's manual
- Know where the controls are and what they do
- Never remove or disable guards or other safety devices
- Never operate/ride in an unsafe manner
- Do not smoke while operating or fuelling gas driven tools
- See *Working Alone Procedure* (section III-C, G-10)
- See *Lawn Care Equipment Procedure* (section III-D, TSE-3)

Steps:

1. Never attempt to service or inspect the riding lawn mower with the engine running. See *Lockout Procedure* (section III-C, G-11).
2. Inspect the work area and remove any objects that may cause personal injury or equipment damage. Objects such as rocks, wire and sticks can be thrown at speeds of above 270 km/hr and travel a distance of 15 meters or more causing serious injury. Be aware that objects thrown may ricochet off buildings back at the operator.
3. Check the work area for any exposed propane, gas or electrical lines.
4. Passengers are not allowed to ride on the lawn mower.
5. Before making adjustments or clearing jams in the cutting deck, remove spark plug wire(s). Rotating the blades may crank the engine.
6. Ensure that safe guards are in place and not broken.
7. Use caution when cutting on sloping grounds with a riding lawn mower. The owner's manual will specify the maximum degree of slope the mower may safely operate on.
8. See *Powered Mobile Equipment Procedure* (section III-E, VLE-18) for general instructions to operate powered and mobile equipment.