

# LAWN MOWER SAFETY

## TIPS TO AVOID INJURY WHILE MOWING THE LAWN

Lacerations (32 per cent) and amputations (16 per cent) account for most of the injuries involving lawn mowers according to the Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP). The most common injuries involved someone slipping or tripping under a mower (23 per cent).

- Dress appropriately: long sleeves, eye and ear protection, gloves and closed-toe shoes with slip resistant soles. Wear sunscreen, a hat and be sure to drink plenty of water.
- Inspect the lawn before mowing. Remove tripping hazards and items that could be thrown by the blade.
- Never use your hands to remove debris from the mower. Do not touch the blades or lift the mower from the bottom, even when the mower is off.
- Have a professional sharpen the blades regularly.
- Read the instruction manual and keep up with regular maintenance. Never remove or alter a safety device on the mower.
- Avoid mowing when it is wet and slippery.
- Do not allow children under the age of 16 to use ride-on mowers and children under the age of 12 to use walk-behind mowers.

