

Mowing Safety Standard Operating Procedure

Document ID: SOP-OPS-01 | Effective Date: May 2026 | Version 1.2

1. Purpose & Scope

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines the safety requirements and operational parameters for commercial lawn mowing tasks. It is designed to mitigate risks including blade-strike injuries, debris projection, rollover hazards on slopes, and equipment damage. All field technicians must review and adhere to these guidelines prior to operating any mowing machinery.

2. Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The following PPE is mandatory during all mowing operations. Failure to wear required equipment will result in disciplinary action.

- **Footwear:** ANSI-approved steel-toe or composite safety boots with slip-resistant soles.
- **Eye Protection:** ANSI Z87.1 approved safety glasses with side shields.
- **Hearing Protection:** Ear plugs or earmuffs with a Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) of 25dB or higher.
- **Visibility:** High-visibility Class 2 safety vest or bright high-vis crew shirt.
- **Apparel:** Full-length work pants (heavy denim or duck canvas). No loose clothing or jewelry.

3. Pre-Operation Inspection

Before loaded onto trailers or started at the job site, technicians must perform the following inspections:

- **Fluids:** Check engine oil levels and fuel. Wipe up any spills before starting engine.
- **Blades:** Verify that mower blades are sharp, secure, balanced, and free from cracks or bends.
- **Guards & Shields:** Ensure the discharge chute, deck guards, and belt covers are installed and undamaged.
- **Site Clearance:** Walk the lawn before mowing to remove rocks, branches, wires, glass, trash, and toys.

4. Safe Operating Guidelines

- **Slope Management:** Never operate riding mowers on slopes exceeding 15 degrees. On hills, mow walk-behind mowers *across* the slope, and ride mowers *up and down* the slope to prevent tip-overs.
- **Safe Distance:** Maintain a minimum buffer zone of 50 feet between the mower and any bystanders, pets, or building windows.
- **Refueling:** Never refuel a hot mower. Allow the engine to cool for at least 5 minutes before refueling. Turn off all electronics and ensure no open flames or smoking are within 25 feet.
- **Debris Projection:** Avoid discharging grass towards roads, sidewalks, structures, or vehicles. Disengage blades immediately if crossing gravel paths, driveways, or bare soil.

5. Emergency & Accident Protocols

In the event of an injury, equipment failure, or property damage: (1) Shut off the mower immediately. (2) Administer first aid if certified, or call 911 if necessary. (3) Report the incident to your supervisor within 30 minutes of occurrence. (4) Document the scene and complete the Incident Report Form.