

Accessing Information and Resources - Just one of the benefits of Membership with the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc.

A young worker was recently sent to hospital after being trapped under a riding mower at a golf course in St. Mary's, Ontario. > More <http://www.ohscanada.com/news/young-worker-sent-to-hospital-after-getting-trapped-under-lawnmower/1001616378/>

Science Hill Golf Course will be issued with a stop work order on the riding mower according to the Ministry of Labour (MOL). This is the second incident in less than two weeks involving grass-cutting equipment in this area. On Aug. 4th, Gerrit Van Eck, 44, of West Perth, was found dead under an overturned riding mower near Molesworth, Ontario. Like the St. Mary's man, Van Eck had been cutting grass on a steep incline when the mower overturned and pinned him in a grassy ditch. > [More on this story](http://www.lfpres.com/news/london/2012/08/14/20100356.html)

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In a related incident involving a tractor, the importance of training and acceptable procedures should be noted. **Sunshine Grounds Care Fined \$40,000 Total After Worker Injured** - A Ministry of Labour (MOL) investigation found that the tractor's manual prohibited the use of a seatbelt if the roll-over protective structure was not on the vehicle. The fine referenced failure to instruct the worker to not use a seatbelt while the roll-over protective structure was not attached to the tractor. The investigation also found that the company owner told a worker to remove parts from the tractor before the Ministry of Labour inspector arrived to investigate the incident. <http://news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2010/09/sunshine-grounds-care-fined-40000-total-after-worker-injured.html>

Reminder: *Obstruction of MOL inspector. No person shall hinder, obstruct, molest or interfere with or attempt to hinder, obstruct, molest or interfere with an inspector in the exercise of a power or the performance of a duty under this Act or the regulations or in the execution of a warrant issued under this Act or the Provincial Offences Act with respect to a matter under this Act or the regulations. 2001, c. 26, s. 4.*

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Although wide area mowers do not typically require such protection (i.e. hardhat) it is recommended that a job hazard assessment be conducted for grounds/parks staff prior to selecting any other protective equipment. If, through the Hazard Analysis, it is determined that the operator could be shaken or bounced around in a mower with roll over protection putting them at risk of being struck on the head, then the hardhat or other head protection is not unreasonable to require the use of this type of protection. By working with your Joint Health & Safety Committee (JHSC) along with affected staff and performing a job hazard analysis you will be demonstrating due diligence and making every effort to protect the safety of facility workers. The JHSC should determine the level of risk associated with potential hazards and injuries for each job task, evaluate the level of risk, and determine (if deemed necessary), the appropriate form of protective equipment to be worn, considering the nature of the work being carried out.

The use of any Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requires research to ensure that the right piece of equipment is selected for the intended task. Once selected, workers must have adequate training provided to ensure proper and safe use of the piece of equipment



**Do not mow across slopes
when using under or rear-
mount mowers**

Slopes

- When using under- or rear-mount mowers, mow down slopes rather than across.
- When using side-mount, offset, or sicklebar mowers, mow across slopes with the mower on the uphill side.
- If you can't back up a hill, it's too steep and you should not mow it.
- If you feel uncomfortable on a slope, don't mow it.
- Make sure there is good traction. Exercise caution on wet grass or dry, scorched grass.
- Don't mow near steep drop-offs, ditches, or embankments

Source: WorksafeBC

Specific to Loads

Tractor Safety http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/tractors/operation.html

Riding Mower http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/landscaping/lawnmower.html

Loading and Unloading Trucks <http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/alerts/i11.php>

Industrial Lift Trucks (MOL) http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/pubs/fs_forklift.php

Forklift Inspections (MOL) http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/gallery/v_forklifts_hs.php

In October 2011, the ORFA released the following bulletin to ORFA members regarding Personal Protective Equipment and the MOL's continuing "Safe at Work Ontario" strategy.

http://www.orfa.com/library/guide_bp/documents/SafetyBlitz-PPE.pdf

Always refer and comply with what the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) manual recommends. If they recommend specific personal protective equipment and general safety precautions, then it should be adopted as policy/safe operating procedure. This is important to keep in mind since should there be an incident the Ministry of Labour will reference during any subsequent investigation.

Additional Resource Support for Grounds/Parks Maintenance Staff:

- ✓ **Recommended Viewing:** The following Video Clip from WorksafeBC is an excellent training and awareness resource. It highlights the events of three mower accidents to show how slopes and the lack of rollover protection systems can lead to danger. (2 min 18 s).
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/Multimedia/SlideShows.asp?ReportID=36412>
- ✓ *Health and Safety for Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance Companies: Crew Training Talks and Employer Guide to Occupational Health and Safety Programs.* Worksafe BC (excellent resource information and checklists for crew talks)

http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/high_resolution_publications/assets/pdf/sb12.pdf

- ✓ **Safetygram: Operating Procedures for Cutting Slopes and Around Waterways** - Sports Turf Manager (STA) <http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/stnew/article/2005spr18.pdf>

- ✓ **Reducing Injuries Among Grounds Maintenance Workers** - There's no reason why grounds maintenance workers should be at greater risk than any other workers," says Monica Szabo, a director of Public Services Health & Safety Association, one of the four organizations comprising Health & Safety Ontario. "The work may involve a unique combination of hazards, but the individual hazards are common to a number of industries. Workplaces in many sectors deal with cutting tools, ladders, lifting devices, machinery, heat stress..
<http://www.healthandsafetyontario.ca/Resources/Articles/WSPS/Reducing-injuries-among-grounds-maintenance-worker.aspx>

- ✓ There are some valuable points on preventing rollover accidents in the following National Ag. Database Landscaping Safety Series; of particular note is section 3: Preventing Rollover Accidents.
<http://nasdonline.org/document/1936/d001880/mowing-and-trimming-safety.html#1>

The [Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc.](#) (ORFA) was incorporated in 1947 as a provincially-recognized, not-for-profit, volunteer driven recreation organization to be the leader in the recreation facility profession. The mission of ORFA is to provide leadership in the development and delivery of innovative training and education programs, value-added services, and quality products for the benefit of the recreation facility profession. The ORFA serves as the National Head Office of the Canadian Recreation Facilities Council.