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≡ SAFE OPERATION PRACTICES - RIDING MOWERS

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ARTICLE NUMBER

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PROBLEM

What are the safe operating practices for riding mowers?

SOLUTION

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY — Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in the Operator's Manual and on the machine.

CAUTION: Engine exhaust, some of its constituents, and certain vehicle components contain or emit chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

GENERAL OPERATION:

1. Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in the Operator's Manual before attempting to assemble and operate. Keep the Operators Manual in a safe place for future and regular reference and for ordering replacement parts.
2. Be familiar with all controls and their proper operation. Know how to stop the machine and disengage them quickly.
3. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate this machine. Children 14 years old and over should read and understand the operation instructions and safety rules in the Operators Manual and should be trained and supervised by a parent.
4. Never allow adults to operate this machine without proper instruction.
5. To help avoid blade contact or a thrown object injury, keep bystanders, helpers, children and pets at least 75 feet from the machine while it is in operation. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.
6. Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used. Remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones, toys, and other foreign objects which could be picked up and thrown by the blade(s). Thrown objects can cause serious personal injury.
7. Plan your mowing pattern to avoid discharge of material toward roads, sidewalks, bystanders and the like. Also, avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction which may cause discharged material to ricochet back toward the operator.
8. Always wear safety glasses or safety goggles during operation and while performing an adjustment or repair to protect your eyes. Thrown objects which ricochet can cause serious injury to the eyes.
9. Wear sturdy, rough-soled work shoes and close-fitting slacks and shirts. Loose fitting clothes and jewelry can be caught in movable parts. Never operate this machine in bare feet or sandals.
10. Be aware of the mower and attachment discharge direction and do not point it at anyone. Do not operate the mower without the discharge cover or entire grass catcher in its proper place.
11. Do not put hands or feet near rotating parts or under the cutting deck. Contact with the blade(s) can amputate hands and feet.
12. A missing or damaged discharge cover can cause blade contact or thrown object injuries.
13. Stop the blade(s) when crossing gravel drives, walks, or roads and while not cutting grass.
14. Watch for traffic when operating near or crossing roadways. This machine is not intended for use on any public roadway.
15. Do not operate the machine while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
16. Mow only in daylight or good artificial light.
17. Never carry passengers.
18. Disengage blade(s) before shifting into reverse. Back up slowly. Always look down and behind before and while backing to avoid a back-over accident.
19. Slow down before turning. Operate the machine smoothly. Avoid erratic operation and excessive speed.
20. Disengage blade(s), set parking brake, stop engine and wait until the blade(s) come to a complete stop before removing grass catcher, emptying grass, unclogging chute, removing any grass or debris, or making any adjustments.
21. Never leave a running machine unattended. Always turn off blade(s), place transmission in neutral, set parking brake, stop engine and remove key before dismounting.

22. Use extra care when loading or unloading the machine into a trailer or truck. This unit should not be driven up or down ramp(s), because the unit could tip over, causing serious personal injury. The unit must be pushed manually on ramp(s) to load or unload properly.
23. Muffler and engine become hot and can cause a burn. Do not touch.
24. Check overhead clearances carefully before driving under low hanging tree branches, wires, door openings etc., where the operator may be struck or pulled from the unit, which could result in serious injury.
25. Disengage all attachment clutches, depress the brake pedal completely and shift into neutral before attempting to start engine.
26. Your machine is designed to cut normal residential grass of a height no more than 10". Do not attempt to mow through unusually tall, dry grass (e.g., pasture) or piles of dry leaves. Dry grass or leaves may contact the engine exhaust and/or build up on the mower deck presenting a potential fire hazard.
27. Use only accessories and attachments approved for this machine by the machine manufacturer. Read, understand and follow all instructions provided with the approved accessory or attachment.
28. Data indicates that operators, age 60 years and above, are involved in a large percentage of riding mower-related injuries. These operators should evaluate their ability to operate the riding mower safely enough to protect themselves and others from serious injury.
29. If situations occur which are not covered in this manual, use care and good judgment.

SLOPE OPERATION:

Slopes are a major factor related to loss of control and tip-over accidents which can result in severe injury or death. All slopes require extra caution. If you cannot back up the slope or if you feel uneasy on it, do not mow it. For your safety, use the slope gauge included as part of this manual to measure slopes before operating this unit on a sloped or hilly area. **If the slope is greater than 15 degrees as shown on the slope gauge, do not operate this unit on that area or serious injury could result.**

DO:

1. Mow up and down slopes, not across. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
2. Watch for holes, ruts, bumps, rocks, or other hidden objects. Uneven terrain could overturn the machine. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
3. Use slow speed. Choose a low enough speed setting so that you will not have to stop or shift while on the slope. Tires may lose traction on slopes even though the brakes are functioning properly. Always keep machine in gear when going down slopes to take advantage of engine braking action.
4. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for wheel weights or counterweights to improve stability.
5. Use extra care with grass catchers or other attachments. These can change the stability of the machine.
6. Keep all movement on the slopes slow and gradual. Do not make sudden changes in speed or direction. Rapid engagement or braking could cause the front of the machine to lift and rapidly flip over backwards which could cause serious injury.
7. Avoid starting or stopping on a slope. If tires lose traction, disengage the blade(s) and proceed slowly straight down the slope.

DO NOT:

1. Do not turn on slopes unless necessary; then, turn slowly and gradually downhill, if possible.
2. Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches or embankments. The mower could suddenly turn over if a wheel is over the edge of a cliff, ditch, or if an edge caves in.
3. Do not try to stabilize the machine by putting your foot on the ground.
4. Do not use a grass catcher on steep slopes.
5. Do not mow on wet grass. Reduced traction could cause sliding.
6. Do not shift to neutral and coast downhill. Over-speeding may cause the operator to lose control of the machine resulting in serious injury or death.
7. Do not tow heavy pull behind attachments (e.g. loaded dump cart, lawn roller, etc.) on slopes greater than 5 degrees. When going down hill, the extra weight tends to push the tractor and may cause you to lose control. (e.g. tractor may speed up, braking and steering ability are reduced, attachment may jack-knife and cause tractor to overturn).

CHILDREN:

1. Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the machine and the mowing activity. They do not understand the dangers. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.
 - Keep children out of the mowing area and in watchful care of a responsible adult other than the operator.
 - Be alert and turn machine off if a child enters the area.
 - Before and while backing, look behind and down for small children.
 - Never carry children, even with the blade(s) shut off. They may fall off and be seriously injured or interfere with safe machine operation.
 - Use extreme care when approaching blind corners, doorways, shrubs, trees or other objects that may block your vision of a child who may run into the machine.
 - Disengage the cutting blade(s) before shifting in reverse. The "No-Cut-In Reverse" feature is a reminder not to cut in reverse and to help avoid back over accidents. Do not defeat it.
 - Keep children away from hot or running engines. They can suffer burns from a hot muffler.
 - Remove key when machine is unattended to prevent unauthorized operation.
2. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate the machine. Children 14 years old and over should read and understand the operation instructions and safety rules in this manual and should be trained and supervised by a parent.

TOWING:

1. Tow only with a machine that has a hitch designed for towing. Do not attach towed equipment except at the hitch point.

2. Follow the manufacturers' recommendation for weight limits for towed equipment and towing on slopes.
3. Never allow children or others in or on towed equipment.
4. On slopes, the weight of the towed equipment may cause loss of traction and loss of control.
5. Travel slowly and allow extra distance to stop.
6. Do not shift to neutral and coast downhill.

SERVICE:

SAFE HANDLING OF GASOLINE:

To avoid personal injury or property damage use extreme care in handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. Serious personal injury can occur when gasoline is spilled on yourself or your clothes which can ignite. Wash your skin and change clothes immediately.

1. Use only an approved gasoline container.
2. Never fill containers inside a vehicle or on a truck or trailer bed with a plastic liner. Always place containers on the ground away from your vehicle before filling.
3. When practical, remove gas-powered equipment from the truck or trailer and refuel it on the ground. If this is not possible, then refuel such equipment on a trailer with a portable container, rather than from a gasoline dispenser nozzle.
4. Keep the nozzle in contact with the rim of the fuel tank or container opening at all times until fueling is complete. Do not use a nozzle lock-open device.
5. Extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.
6. Never fuel machine indoors.
7. Never remove gas cap or add fuel while the engine is hot or running. Allow engine to cool at least two minutes before refueling.
8. Never over fill fuel tank. Fill tank to no more than ½ inch below bottom of filler neck to allow space for fuel expansion.
9. Replace gasoline cap and tighten securely.
10. If gasoline is spilled, wipe it off the engine and equipment. Move unit to another area. Wait 5 minutes before starting the engine.
11. To reduce fire hazards, keep machine free of grass, leaves, or other debris build-up. Clean up oil or fuel spillage and remove any fuel soaked debris.
12. Never store the machine or fuel container inside where there is an open flame, spark or pilot light as on a water heater, space heater, furnace, clothes dryer or other gas appliances.
13. Allow a machine to cool at least five minutes before storing.

GENERAL SERVICE:

- a. Never run an engine indoors or in a poorly ventilated area. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless, and deadly gas.
- b. Before cleaning, repairing, or inspecting, make certain the blade(s) and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting.
- c. Periodically check to make sure the blades come to complete stop within approximately (5) five seconds after operating the blade disengagement control. If the blades do not stop within this time frame, your unit should be serviced professionally by an authorized service dealer.
- d. Check brake operation frequently as it is subjected to wear during normal operation. Adjust and service as required.
- e. Check the blade(s) and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness. Also, visually inspect blade(s) for damage (e.g., excessive wear, bent, cracked). Replace the blade(s) with the original equipment manufacturers (O.E.M.) blade(s) only. Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise safety.
- f. Mower blades are sharp. Wrap the blade or wear gloves, and use extra caution when servicing them.
- g. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
- h. Never tamper with the safety interlock system or other safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
- i. After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, disconnect the spark plug wire(s) and ground against the engine. Thoroughly inspect the machine for any damage. Repair the damage before starting and operating.
- j. Never attempt to make adjustments or repairs to the machine while the engine is running.
- k. Grass catcher components and the discharge cover are subject to wear and damage which could expose moving parts or allow objects to be thrown. For safety protection, frequently check components and replace immediately with original equipment manufacturers (O.E.M.) parts only, listed in this manual. "Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise safety!"
- l. Do not change the engine governor settings or over-speed the engine. The governor controls the maximum safe operating speed of the engine.
- m. Maintain or replace safety and instruction labels, as necessary.
- n. Observe proper disposal laws and regulations for gas, oil, etc. to protect the environment.

DETAILS

FILE1

FILE2

FILE3

FILE4

FILE5

FILE6

Customer Service

- [PRODUCT REGISTRATION](https://www.cubcadet.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ViewProductRegister?catalogId=14101&storeId=10051&krypto=tcf0kmspmOaBrE2jDTEw%2BVMEtQdDtM2QIRC6xzAvhd1Ls1Q8E56SMFvPKEylOiVEF2pFew02moAxByyIzfmF0w%3D%3D&dkey=http%3Acubcadet%2Fproduct-registration) (<https://www.cubcadet.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ViewProductRegister?catalogId=14101&storeId=10051&krypto=tcf0kmspmOaBrE2jDTEw%2BVMEtQdDtM2QIRC6xzAvhd1Ls1Q8E56SMFvPKEylOiVEF2pFew02moAxByyIzfmF0w%3D%3D&dkey=http%3Acubcadet%2Fproduct-registration>)
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