



City Safe

A Guide To Assist In Training
Employees About:

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Forgotten Safety Measures

Number 28

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City Safe is a publication of the League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust for the purpose of educating and informing cities about loss control methods and risk management. Contents herein are not intended to provide specific legal or medical advice. Readers should seek advice on specific concerns from a qualified professional.

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Forgotten Safety Measures

It is early May and summer is just around the corner. By now, everyone has uncovered their lawn equipment and has already put it to use. We all know the common dangers that exist with mowers, trimmers, and other equipment. We have to watch out for the blades, the PTO shaft, and all the moving parts. We are all aware of these types of hazards, but the ones we sometimes overlook are the ones most likely to cause injuries. Below are safety reminders that are often overlooked:



Refueling

- A hot muffler can ignite vapors from the gasoline. Always allow the mower to cool down before refueling. Any gasoline, which is spilled, should be wiped up immediately.

Obviously, it is not always feasible to allow an engine to cool adequately, when refueling a hot engine, use even more caution than you ordinarily would.

- Gasoline is flammable because it vaporizes with air to form a mixture that ignites easily. Vaporization can occur in temperatures as low as zero degrees

We often forget that gas vapors still exist in cold weather. Gas vapors can ignite in any temperature.

- Always refuel outdoors and move away from the fueling location at least 25 feet before starting the engine to avoid igniting fuel vapors which may linger for some time. Do not smoke while refueling.

Clearly, the more concentrated the gas vapors become, the more easily they ignite. If you **must** refuel indoors, be sure it is in a well ventilated area and no other ignition sources are anywhere near.

Mowing on Slopes

DO:

- Mow up and down slopes, not across.
- Watch for holes, ruts, or bumps. Uneven terrain could cause the mower to overturn. Tall grass can hide obstacles. Use slow speed. Shift into a lower gear before going on a slope. Choose a low enough gear so that you will not have to stop or shift while on the slope.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for wheel weights or counterweights to improve stability.
- Use extra care with grass catchers or other attachments. These can change the stability of the mower.
- Keep all movement on slopes slow and gradual. Avoid sudden changes in speed and direction.
- Avoid starting or stopping on a slope. If tires lose traction, disengage the blades, and proceed slowly straight down the slope.



DON'T:

- Do not turn on slopes unless unavoidable; then, with the blades disengaged, turn slowly and gradually go downhill.
- Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches, or embankments. A wheel over the edge or an edge caving in could cause sudden overturning.
- Do not mow on wet grass. Reduced traction could cause sliding.
- Do not try to stabilize the machine by putting your foot on the ground.

Bystanders and Other Property

Unfortunately, the areas that cities are responsible for mowing are areas that often force us to come into contact with the public; parks, right-of-ways, cemeteries, etc. Because our employees must operate near these places, we must be highly aware of where the chute is aimed at all times. Rocks and other debris can be thrown great distances at high speeds, injuring people, and damaging property. Always be aware of your surroundings!

NEW EMPLOYEE-NEW JOB



So you're the new employee on the job — or maybe you're an old timer starting a new job. Both of you have a responsibility to learn how to do your new job safely. Your supervisor should take the time necessary to explain the safety requirements for the work you will be doing. Here are several safety topics to think about.

First Aid & Emergency: Where is the first aid station located? Where are the first aid supplies? Who is certified to provide first aid? Where are emergency phone numbers posted?

Housekeeping & Sanitation: Where is the waste disposal area? Are there any materials which must be disposed of in a special manner? What are the procedures for daily cleanup? Where is drinking water located?

Personal Protective Equipment: Are hard hats required at this work site? Are soft soled shoes prohibited? Check eye and ear protection requirements. What other kinds of Personal Protective Equipment are needed?

Hand & Power Tools: Are you qualified to use the tools you will be using on this job? Are all the required guards in place? Are your tools properly grounded?

Ladders: Is the ladder the right one for the job? Is it in good condition? Be sure the ladder is properly set up and secured. Always check a ladder prior to using it.

Hazcom: Are you going to have to work with chemicals? Do you understand all of the precautions which must be taken?

As a new - or seasoned - employee there are many safety topics

that you need to think

about. Some other subjects who may be of particular importance on your job are: working around heavy equipment, excavations and trenching, motor vehicles, scaffolds, fall protection, and electricity.

As the new guy on the block there is a lot of information that you need to comprehend. If you have a question – **ask!!!**

As a supervisor, you need to be able to answer any questions a new employee may have.



Safe-T-Tips

Fight Poison Ivy This Summer

About 85% of people are bothered by poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. A product, once available only to forest rangers and firefighters, is now available on drugstore shelves. Spread *IvyBlock* on exposed skin and the poison resin will be unable to penetrate according to the New England Journal of Medicine.

Dear KMIT Members and Friends,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” for a great, almost two years. I have immensely enjoyed my time working for KMIT and the League and will miss the opportunity to meet new people and see old friends, which this job has afforded me. On June 9th, I will pass the torch to Mike Smith. I know Mike will do a great job in this position.

KMIT has a great staff remaining in Wendy and Don, and I know KMIT will continue to provide you great service far into the future.

Best wishes to all.

Mark

KMIT Loss Prevention ‘Training Tools’

KMIT and **IMA** have teamed up to offer valuable information geared towards supervisors. These **Training Tools** provide our cities with a wealth of information to be utilized when holding ‘toolbox’ safety meetings with employees.

A complete library of Training Tools can be found on the **KMIT** website, www.kmit.net, by clicking “document center.” Each issue is in PDF form, so you may print issues for your use. If you don’t see what you need, you may contact Renee Rhodes with IMA at (316) 266-6345 or renee.rhodes@imacorp.com, and KMIT will provide you with what you are looking for.



DID YOU KNOW?

Nylon socks prevent blisters better than all-cotton or cotton-synthetic blends

A recent study looked at 10 popular brands of socks and separated the good from the bad. Material was the key. Brand or price didn't matter.

Source: University of Missouri-Columbia & American Podiatric Medical Association

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