General Mower Safety

1. General Safety
   a. Always inspect equipment before use. Look for loose or broken parts that could fly off during operation and to be sure that all safety features are installed properly and are operational. Do not use equipment if safety features are missing. Notify your Supervisor of any discrepancies. Check all fluids prior to starting equipment.

   b. If you need to get off of the mower, set the mowers brake and completely shut the mower off before doing so.

   c. If you need to check the mower chute, always completely shut the mower off first.

   d. Check the mowers guards, belts, and fluids daily.

   e. Always use safety approved gas cans. Never add gas to the mower while the engine is running or while in the operating area.

   f. Use the appropriate gas in the mower/tractor.

   g. When mowing around walks, driveways and roads, always direct the thrown grass away from these surfaces.

   h. Never leave a running mower unattended.

   i. Prior to mowing, always check the area(s) for unfamiliar objects first.

2. PPE
   a. While operating a mower (whether mowing or while in transport), personal protective equipment (PPE) shall include, at a minimum, hearing protection (ear muffs or ear plugs), eye protection (approved safety glasses or goggles) and high visibility clothing (vest or approved clothing).

3. Walk Behind Mowers
   a. Never cut up or down grades. Always cut across grades to avoid slip hazards.

   b. Always operate the mower in a forward position. Do not pull the mower behind you or backwards toward your feet.
4. **Ride On Mower**

   a. When transporting a mower, always tie the mower down with chains or sturdy ropes.

   b. Always look behind you before backing the mower up.

   c. Always follow the rules of the road.

   d. Be aware of your surroundings (people, objects, etc).

   e. Never use your hands to clear the mower of obstructions.

   f. Always be aware of loose dirt/gravels while mowing. Always disengage the mower blades when these conditions exist.

   g. Always cut up or down grade. Do not cut across grades as the mower could easily tip over.

   h. If you feel the grade is too steep to mow, do not mow! A mower with outriggers should be used under these conditions.

   i. Always watch out for obstructions.

   j. Always use care when mowing around trees (low branches).

5. **Maintenance/Inspection Schedule**

   a. **Ride On Power Mowers** – Every four (4) weeks a maintenance/inspection shall be made to ensure, at a minimum, the following is checked:

      i. The equipment is properly lubricated and all fluid levels and tire air pressures are correct,

      ii. There is no damage to the blades and/or drive belts,

      iii. All safety features are in place and operating,

      iv. A visual inspection is made for other normal wear and tear items.

   b. **Push Mowers** – Every six (6) months a maintenance/inspection shall be made following the guidelines outlined for power mowers as above.

   c. At **any** time problems are found with the mowers and/or mowing equipment, notify your Supervisor immediately.