



Safety for Groundskeepers

Groundskeepers are essential to projecting the professionalism and quality of your facility. This means strenuous work, with tools and conditions that are quite hazardous. Please keep these tips in mind for the safety of your groundskeepers:

- Groundskeepers must be trained in the safe handling of tools and equipment including, but not limited to:
 - o Lawn mowers and trimmers
 - o Manual hand tools
 - o Chainsaws and hedge trimmers
- Groundskeepers must wear proper PPE, including:
 - o Eye and hearing protection
 - o Long pants, gloves, and work boots
- Conduct a walkthrough of the lawn, and remove any limbs or debris before mowing. Note fixed hazards, such as holes or sprinklers.
- Do not mow alongside sloped grass. The mower may tip if the grade is steep enough.
- Use the correct ladder for the job, and always inspect ladders before use.
- Avoid stones, gravel, and debris when operating trimmers.
- Ensure that all guards are in place before operating equipment.
- Use lockout/tagout procedures to unjam or service machinery.
- Keep tools in good condition. Repair or replace any defective equipment.

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- Wear reflective vests when working in a parking lot or near a street.
- Be aware of any pedestrians or bystanders.
- Use caution when using extension cords. They pose a trip hazard, and can potentially be severed.
- Do not walk backwards when operating power equipment.
- Do not leave tools lying around your workspace, to avoid trip hazards.
- Take frequent breaks and drink plenty of water to avoid heat exhaustion.
- Ensure that fuels, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals are stored and dispensed properly.
- Consider hiring outside contractors for especially dangerous jobs such as:
 - o Wood chipping or log splitting
 - o Stone cutting
 - o Roofing
 - o Tree pruning or climbing

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