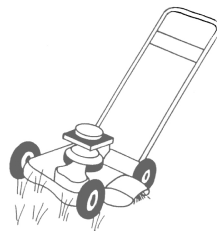


Summer Safety



MOWING — With summer in full swing, it is a good time for reminders about mowing safety—whether you are mowing lawns, roadways, ditches or other large areas.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 60,000 injuries are treated by hospital emergency rooms each year because of unsafe operation of power lawn mowers. Kids under the age of 15 are the most common victims.

Fatal accidents with riding lawnmowers have several common elements: the machine tips over, the victim falls under or is run over by the machine (most of the deaths that involve young children fall in this category), or the victim is thrown from or falls off the machine. The risk of an injury with a ride-on mower is almost twice the chance of a mishap with a walk-behind rotary mower. Other fatalities have occurred when the operator is attempting to load the mower onto a trailer. Ramps designed for this purpose are commercially available.

Even though millions of homeowners routinely use power lawnmowers every year without mishap, there is still a fairly constant parade of people into hospital emergency rooms with injuries from walk-behind power mowers. Most often, patients are treated for minor injuries and released. However, emergency surgery is sometimes required to treat severe injuries resulting from hand or foot contact with the rotating blade. Toe amputations are not uncommon with homeowners cutting grass.

Several fact sheets about outdoor power equipment are on line at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety site: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/tools.html>. Individual fact sheets are available for: riding lawnmowers; brush cutters; chain saws; pressure washers; weed trimmers; and power lawnmowers.

BICYCLES — Information about bicycle safety is at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/bikepubs.html>. Included here is *Sprocket Man*, which is in comic book format—fun for kids.



PLAYGROUNDS - Playground safety information is at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/playpubs.html>.

POISONS - Information for poison prevention is at: <http://www.poisoncentertampa.org/home>. The toll-free phone number is 1-800-222-1222. It is manned 24 hours, 365 days a year. Since summer is more "laid back" and kids are home from school, there are more opportunities for children and chemicals to come into contact,



either at their own homes or at friends'.



CAMPING AND HIKING - Camping and Hiking Safety reminders are at:

<http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/tips/hiking.html>.

CAMPING AND THUNDERSTORMS

- This publication was written by a scoutmaster:

http://www.cimms.ou.edu/~doswell/tstm_camping_safety.html.



Extension Publications:

Use and Application of DEET Repellent (ENY-260)

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/IG/IG12200>

Chiggers (ENY-212)

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/IG/IG08500>

Ticks (ENY-206)

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/IG/IG08800>

Lyme Disease (Fact Sheet ENY-209)

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/MG/MG20400.pdf>

Identification of Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, and Poison Sumac in Florida (ENH886)

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP22000.pdf>