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Lawnmower Safety Tips

1. Wear goggles or safety glasses
2. Don't mow when other people are around
3. Do not carry passengers on riding mowers
4. Wear strong shoes or boots, not flip-flops
5. Pick up rocks, sticks, pinecones and toys before mowing

>>Read More Lawnmower Safety Tips<<

SAFETY ALERT

Mishaps involving mower operation within MIDLANT AOR require Grounds Service contractors to examine existing safety plans and daily safety operations.

ACTION REQUIRED:

- 1) IAW EM 385 3 November 2003 Edition Section 01.B.05 conduct a weekly safety meeting for all workers on each site to review safety activities of mowing operations on all bases.
- 3) IAW EM 385 3 November 2003 Edition Section 01.B.05 conduct a monthly safety meeting for all supervisors on each site to review past safety activity of mowing operations on all bases.

APPLICABLE ENGINEERING MANUAL (EM) 385-1-1 2003 SECTIONS:

"01.B.05 Safety meetings shall be conducted to review past activities, plan for new or changed operations, review pertinent aspects of appropriate AHA (by trade), establish safe working procedures for anticipated hazards, and provide pertinent safety and health training and motivation.

a. Meetings shall be conducted at least once a month for all supervisors on the project location and at least once a week by supervisors or foremen for all workers.

b. Meetings shall be documented, including the date, attendance, subjects discussed, and names of individual(s) who conducted the meeting. Documentation shall be maintained and copies furnished to the GDA on request.

c. The GDA will be informed of all scheduled meetings in advance and invited to attend."

TWO RECENT GROUND SERVICES MOWER MISHAPS

OVERTURNED MOWER



Mishap #1

TOWING/RIGGING



Mishap #1

PINCH POINT



Mishap #2

DESCRIPTION OF MISHAPS:

Mishap (1): An experienced operator of a Z-rider grass mower got stuck at the top of subsequently rolled over in the ditch and on top of another operator due to improper rigging procedures.

Mishap (2): An experienced operator turned off mower when rear pivot wheel became stuck. While wearing gloves he reached between wheel and bar on mower to attempt to free wheel. His hand was pinched between wheel and permanent bar cutting finger and requiring six stitches to close injury to hand.

DIRECT CAUSES:

Mishap (1): Improper rigging and towing procedures

Mishap (2): Placing hand between movable and stationary objects

INDIRECT CAUSES:

Mishap (1): Accident Prevention Plan (APP) and Activity Hazard Analysis (AHA) failed to address rigging or towing operations for mowers although this was a common problem on each site.

No procedure (SOP) for following safe rigging and towing operations of mowers.

Mishap (2): Employee failed to follow proper safety procedures and policies for working on equipment

LESSONS LEARNED:

- 1) Constant supervision and practice of safe work practices must be utilized at all times
- 2) Site specific AHA's must be developed/implemented at all mowing operation sites
- 3) APP must be modified to address rigging towing operations on all government sites
- 4) Safety inspection of equipment must ensure all mowers and parts are functioning correctly before placing equipment in operation
- 5) All operations involving mowing/towing must adhere to accepted safety plan, accepted activity hazard analysis (AHA), and manufacturers' recommendation and instructions for safe operations