

# Hazard Alert



## Mower Operation

### Hazard Summary

In June 2025, a worker sustained serious injuries when their foot made contact with the rotating blades of a ride-on mower. As the worker mounted the mower, their foot entered the unguarded blade area, resulting in a serious foot injury.

### Contributing Factors

While the worker received the training to safely operate the mower, the following contributed to the incident:

- **Unguarded equipment** - The mower chute guard had been removed, exposing the blades.
- **Deactivated safety systems** - The seat-activated safety switch had been bypassed, allowing the blades to remain in motion while the mower operator was off the seat.
- **Lack of foot protection** - The worker was not wearing CSA-approved protective footwear.
- **Inadequate supervision** - The supervisor failed to make sure the mower was in safe operating condition and did not consistently enforce the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Removing the chute guard from a walk-behind mower, also known as a push mower, can also create a hazard by exposing moving blades. This increases the risk of contact and potential injury.



Do not deactivate safety devices, like seat activated safety switches

Do not remove safeguards, like mower chute guards, from machinery



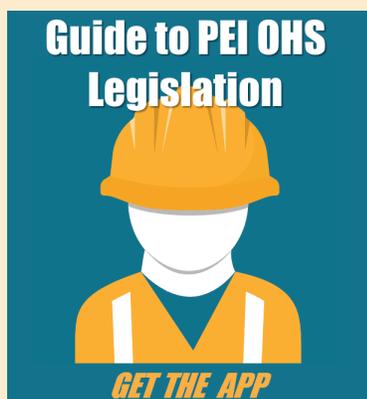
### Legislated Requirements

The following legislative requirements under PEI's *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHS Act) and its General Regulations (Regs), apply to this situation. Employers are required:

- OHS Act, Section 12(1)(c) - To make sure workers are provided with the necessary instruction, training and supervision to perform their work safely.
- Regs, Part 30.2 - To make sure that all machinery safeguards, like chute and blade guards, are in place and functioning.
- Regs, Part 30.3 (1) - To make sure that machinery is operated and maintained in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
- Regs, Part 30.10 - To make sure that safeguards and safety devices are not modified or removed.
- Regs, Part 45.15 - To make sure that a worker on a worksite, or at any place of employment, who is exposed to a hazard which could injure the foot wears footwear which meets the CSA standards and specifications.

## Recommendations

- Do not remove or disable safety features, such as chute guards or safety switch controls.
- Inspect equipment regularly to make sure all safety mechanisms are in place and function as intended.
- Make sure appropriate PPE is always worn, including CSA-approved protective footwear when operating or working near mowers.
- Supervise workers closely, especially during the early stages of their employment or when performing higher-risk tasks.



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