

GROUNDS, LAWN CARE AND MOWING SAFETY

AFOSH STD 91-501, Chapter 15

This is not an all-inclusive checklist. Always read the owner's manual before operating equipment. Refer to OSHA 29 CFR 1910.243, *Guarding of Portable Power Tools*, and ANSI B71.1, *Safety Specifications for Power Lawn Mowers*, for further guidance.

Portable Powered Equipment:

1. Is required PPE designated and used during gasoline powered auger operations? (Reference **15.1.1.2.**)
2. Is a grounded power cord used when electric hedge clippers are not double insulated? (Reference **15.1.1.4.**)
3. Are electric power tools never operated in rain, sprinklers, or any kind of precipitation? (Reference **15.1.1.4.**)

Tire Removal and Mounting:

1. Are multi-piece or split-rim tires gauged prior to installation and is the "80-percent rule" followed for inflation purposes? (Reference **15.1.2.**)

Mowing and Edging:

1. Are all safety precautions taken from **T.O. 47C1-1**, *Safety Instruction for Lawn Care Equipment*? :
 - a. Before any mower or edger is used, is it inspected for safe operating condition?
 - b. Is the use of mowers or edgers in need of repair prohibited?
 - c. Are only trained personnel operating power mowers and edgers? Is training documented on AF Form 55?
 - d. Are mower blades adjusted high enough above the ground to avoid hitting unseen objects?
 - e. Are mower blades set no lower than one and one-half inches from the ground?

- f. Is no more than 5 gallons of gasoline on hand during cutting operations?
 - g. Are electric powered mowers equipped with an effective low-resistance ground wire?
2. Are any adjustments or repairs prohibited while the mower or edger is running? (Reference **15.1.4.5.**)
 3. Prior to mowing, is the area to be mowed cleared of people and inspected for foreign objects, raised sprinkler heads, holes, soft ground, obstructions, or any other condition that has the potential to impact safety? (Reference **15.1.4.1.**)
 4. Are mowers and edgers fueled outside, at least 10 feet away from a building or open flame source, and after motor has had time to cool? (Reference **15.1.5.1.**)
 5. Are extension cords used for electric mowers, trimmers, or edgers grounded, unless the equipment is listed or labeled as being double insulated? (Reference **15.1.2.1.2.**)
 6. Is required PPE designated and in use during the operation of lawnmowers and edgers? (Reference **15.1.2.1.** & **15.1.10.5.**)
 7. Are all mower discharge chutes guarded with shields or approved grass catchers and appropriate safety messages placed near the discharge opening? (Reference **15.1.3.3.**)
 8. Are operators aware of special precautions to be used when mowing hills or slopes? (Reference **15.1.4.3.**)

Batteries:

1. Is required PPE designated and used during battery servicing? (Paragraph **15.1.6.1.**)
2. Are nickel-cadmium and unsealed lead-acid batteries stored and serviced in separate areas? (Reference **15.1.6.3.**)
3. Are personnel prohibited from wearing rings, watches, bracelets or other metallic jewelry when working with batteries? (Reference **15.1.6.5.**)
4. Is battery charging done in specifically designated areas that are equipped with adequate ventilation, water supply, and (where necessary) emergency eyewash and shower? (Reference **15.1.6.5.**)

Tractor Operations:

1. Are all tractors used for landscape maintenance equipped with rollover protection and seat belts? (Reference **15.1.7.1.**)
2. Are tractor operators prohibited from mowing grass on slopes of greater than 4-inch rise or drop per foot of travel? (Reference **15.1.7.8.**)
3. When using sickle-bar blades, do personnel always position them up hill? (Reference **15.1.7.9.**)
4. Are riders prohibited on tractors, the draw bar, or towed equipment except when specifically designed for such use? (Reference **15.1.7.11.**)
5. Are fenders in place on tractors? (Reference **15.1.7.12.**)
6. Are tractors left on inclines braked and blocked? (Reference **15.1.7.12.**)
7. Is the power take-off guard in place? (Reference **15.1.7.14.**)
8. Is required PPE designed and used by operators? (Reference **15.1.7.16.**)

Maintenance of Irrigation Systems:

1. Are oxygen and combustible gas levels tested prior to entry into an irrigation pit? (Reference **15.1.8.1.**)
2. Are transformers and other electrical equipment located in waterproof boxes? (Reference **15.1.8.3.**)
3. Is required PPE designated and used? (Reference **15.1.8.4.**)
4. Are orange reflective vests worn when working within 15 feet of a roadway or parking lot? (Reference **15.1.8.4.**)

Tree Maintenance:

1. Are a minimum of two workers and an on-site supervisor assigned during tree maintenance involving climbing, working from high reach lift, and cutting down trees other than small, low trees? (Reference **15.1.9.2.**)
2. Are all safety related climbing devices inspected prior to use? (Reference **15.1.9.2.**)
3. Does each climber have at least one lifeline and one handline? (Reference **15.1.9.3.**)

4. Is required PPE designated and in use by all workers involved in tree maintenance? (Reference **15.1.9.4.**)

5. Have supervisors performed a job safety analysis and developed local operating procedures for tree maintenance operations? (Reference **15.1.9.5.**)

Flower Bed and Shrub Maintenance:

1. Are flowers and shrubs maintained at a height that does not interfere with the vision of vehicle operators? (Reference **15.1.10.1.**)

2. Are personnel restricted from working on flower or shrub beds within 24 hours of herbicide applications? (Reference **15.1.10.1.**)

Herbicides:

1. Are herbicides applied per manufacturer's instructions and used only by certified personnel? (Reference **15.1.13.3.**)

2. Is required PPE designated and used by personnel applying herbicides? (Reference **15.1.13.3.**)