

PUSH MOWERS**ALL EMPLOYEES ARE TO BE TRAINED PRIOR TO USING EQUIPMENT****Purpose**

The use of gas-powered equipment, such as a push mower, helps keep landscapes, trails, and campsites clean, safe, and well maintained. Use of gas-powered push mowers requires an ability to walk over uneven surfaces, use job hazard analysis to identify worksite dangers, and use equipment and materials safely according to OYA and manufacturer instructions. The purpose of operating any equipment is to accomplish the business of the State while protecting employees, youth offenders, volunteers, and the public.

**Significant Environmental Aspects**

Operation of gas-powered equipment, such as a push mower, has the potential for significant environmental impact involving: vehicle and engine use, non-hazardous waste, potentially hazardous waste, and air quality. Operators of gas-powered equipment should choose the most efficient equipment to perform assigned tasks.

I. Pre-Operation

A. Operator's Manual - Read prior to use of equipment.

B. Inspection/Service

- Check fuel and oil.
- Check for tightness of handle, loose nuts and bolts, blade sharpness, rope, and protective guards or grass deflectors are attached and serviceable.
- Disconnect spark plug *before* checking or working on blade.
- **Red tag** any tools or non-energized equipment requiring replacement or repair and remove from service.
- **Lockout/Tag-out (LO/TO)** any energized tools or equipment if repairs are needed, in accordance with Procedure Module 09-04, Lockout/Tag-out.

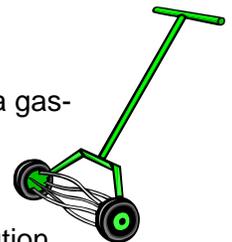
**II. Sustainable Operation**

A. Equipment Choice – Look for alternatives to gas-powered engines. If a gas-powered engine is required, use the most efficient and appropriate equipment available.

B. Maintenance – Proper maintenance of gas-powered equipment helps increase fuel efficiency and reduce air pollution.

Chemical Use – Where possible use low-smoke oil and bio-based lubricants.

Waste Disposal – Properly dispose of all grass clippings and petroleum-based waste according to park procedures or waste management plan.

**III. Operation**

A. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **Eye Protection** – Safety goggles/glasses are required.
- **Hearing Protection** - Ear plugs or ear muffs are required.
- **Head Protection** – Hardhats are required if overhead hazards are present.
- **Hand Protection** – Leather gloves are required when working under the mower deck.

B. Starting

- **Pre-start** - Pre-start mower before leaving shop.
- **Unable to Start** - If mower doesn't start within 10 cranks, red tag for repair.
- **Listen** for unusual mower noise.
- **Safety Features** - Make sure factory safety features are operational.
- **Safety Issues** – Wear appropriate footwear for the task, no sandals, thongs, tennis shoes.



Site Assessment

- **People/Animals/Vehicles** - Blow debris away from (versus towards) people and property.
If the chute is pointed towards pedestrians, turn off mower until they have passed. Failure to follow these mowing procedures that results in an injury to people or damage to property may result in disciplinary action.
- **Terrain** – Avoid rocks, holes, and rough ground. Correcting terrain hazards or adjusting the deck height may also be an option. **Check the area out before mowing. ALWAYS assume that debris/rocks are in the area.**
- **Overhead Hazards** – A hardhat is required if there are overhead hazards unless they can be removed prior to starting the task. Keep a pruning tool handy to remove overhead hazards.
- **Dust** - If dust is created, a particulate mask may be necessary.

D. Operation Includes

- **Support Kit** - Wrench, screwdriver, file, extra gas/oil, and pruning tool.

- **Deck Maintenance** – Lock out the energy source by shutting off and disconnecting spark plug boot when doing any blade maintenance, cleaning grass clogs or any under-deck maintenance. Gloves are required when working under the deck.
- **Grass Bag** - Shut off engine before emptying grass bag.
- **Mowing** - *Always mow in a forward position.* Many people have stumbled and cut ankles and feet pulling a mower backwards!



IV. Post-Operation

A. Clean Up, Hazard Warnings, Storage

- Look for damage or needed maintenance prior to checking in the lawn mower.
- Clean under deck, refuel, and check oil.
- Record use and any maintenance needed in park maintenance log.
- Place hazard signs/tape to identify any park hazard for the safety of staff and visitors.
- Red Tag any non-energized tools or equipment damaged during work project.
- Complete Lockout/Tag-out process for any energized tools or equipment damaged during work.
- Schedule repairs or replacement on damaged tools or equipment.

V. Demonstration of Proficiency

Anyone expected to use a push mower must be trained in that process and is required to demonstrate proficiency prior to signing training ledger.

PROFICIENCY TEST

PUSH MOWER

03-13

Multiple Choice:

1. You should inspect the following before using a push mower:
 - a) Fuel and oil.
 - b) Headlight.
 - c) Blade for sharpness.
 - d) Pull rope.
 - e) Loose nuts and bolts.
 - f) a, b, c, d and e.
 - g) a, c, d, and e

2. Which of the following is required PPE when using mowers?
 - a) Tennis shoes.
 - b) Raincoats.
 - c) Eye/ear protection.

3. When doing a site assessment before starting to mow, which of the following should be taken into consideration?
 - a) Dust.
 - b) Lunch time.
 - c) Rocks/holes.
 - d) Rough terrain.
 - e) Location of people, animals and vehicles.
 - f) All the above
 - g) a, c, d and e.

True/False:

4. _____ Fuel and oil should be checked before leaving the shop yard.
5. _____ Never disconnect the spark plug when working on the mower.
6. _____ Tennis shoes are required when operating a mower.
7. _____ You should always wear a hard hat when mowing in an area with overhead hazards.
8. _____ Leave the engine running when emptying grass bags.
9. _____ Mowers should be cleaned at the end of each day's use.
10. _____ It is recommended to crank mower 25 consecutive times if it doesn't start.
11. _____ Always blow dust and debris away from people, animals, and vehicles or property.
12. _____ As part of locking and tagging out the mower, you can remove the spark plug.

Discussion Questions:

1. What hazards are present when operating a lawn mower?
2. What methods would you use to lock and tag out a lawn mower?

Employee Name: _____ Pass _____ No Pass _____ Date: _____
Take this test to your supervisor or trainer for sign off.