



North Carolina Wing Weekly Safety Blast



2018 - Topic #21 – Mowing the Lawn

Reason for this Blast:

Whether at home or at your local unit, mowing the lawn is a normal part of life. Though lawn mower safety is something that may be taken for granted, it is still of the utmost importance.

Safety Points:

- **Know the Working Area** – Before starting, survey your yard for any obstacles, such as loose rocks, branches and debris that could be struck by the blades and ejected at high speeds.
- **Personal Protection** – Make sure to wear proper attire, including long pants, close-toed shoes, safety glasses and earplugs. Mower mufflers are typically only a few inches in length, and you'll likely be standing immediately behind or sitting on top of the engine. Protecting your ears and eyes is essential.
- **Proper Refueling Practices** – Be sure to use a funnel when refueling the mower to avoid spilling gasoline. Always make sure to shut off the engine and allow it to cool down before adding more gas. Although the chances are slim, the heat from the engine could ignite fumes from the gas can or tank and start a fire, creating a serious risk of injury.
- **Damage Control** – If you hit something while mowing, shut the engine off immediately, wait for it to cool before inspecting the damage and consult your local repair shop before beginning any repair work on your own.
- **Take Safety Home** – Always disconnect or remove the spark plug when working on your mower to prevent an accidental start-up. When working with or removing the blades on your mower for repair, wrap them with shop rags or towels to avoid any possible injury. Remember that, while the metal components of the engine may feel cool to the touch, the oil inside the engine could still be quite hot. If you need to turn your mower on its side to perform a repair, wrap the muffler with a shop rag and put a drain pan beneath it to protect you from any hot oil that could work its way around the piston and through the exhaust.



MAIN DISCUSSION POINT OF THIS SAFETY BLAST

If there's one thing that many people have in common, it's that we need to mow our lawns eventually. Use these tips to keep yourself safe and ensuring a long life for your mower.