

# Lawnmower accidents are preventable



**By Chris Loomis, Safety Expert**

Last year, the U.S. Consumers Products Safety Commission estimates there were over 180,000 lawnmower accidents.



High speed projectiles moving at 200 mph, sharp spinning blades that rotate at 3,000 rpm and loud constant noise of over 110 decibels are just three items to be concerned about as you mow and trim your lawn this summer.

A rock kicked up by a mower can travel over 200 mph and can immediately put an eye out. This is why you need to be very careful of toddlers when mowing and trimming your lawn. You might also run one over your toddler like the dad in Vermont who ran over his two year old in a riding mower going in reverse. He said when he was going in reverse he couldn't look backwards. If this happens to you, it's time to get a new mower or keep the kids inside. Kids can be hit by flying projectiles and easily lose a finger or toe, even a whole limb to a lawn mower accident and so can adults, pets, and hamsters.

Now that you have an appreciation for all the ways you can be mangled by your mower let's talk about noise. Mowers and string trimmers are very loud; they generate the same noise level of a rock band, well over 110 decibels. This high level of noise heard for over 30 minutes can cause permanent hearing loss.

Take the following precautions to make this a safe and happy summer for you and your loved ones:

- Don't wear flip-flops, especially on wet grass. Can you say goodbye to your toes?
- Invest \$30 in light weight pair of steel toe shoes; your feet and family will love you for it.
- Know where your kids are and keep them away from the mower and trimmer.
- Never unclog a jammed mower with the engine on. Over 1,400 hand and finger amputations were reported last year for this very thing. Take the time to turn the mower off and use gloves when cleaning out grass clogs in your mower. Remember, those blades are sharp!

Follow these simple safety rules for life. Mistakes can be tombstones.

Safety is an attitude that begins in our thoughts. We can create an accident-free environment at work and at home if we believe we can and are committed to the process.

Chris has more than 20 years of professional safety experience. As the marketing manager for DuPont's environmental and safety services, he has seen first-hand the safety challenges faced by plant personnel while working with more than 600 chemical, petrochemical, and manufacturing facilities. Chris is an award-winning international safety speaker and author.

**For more information or to book your next safety speaker, please visit <http://www.safetyattitude.com> or call Chris Loomis at 713-927-6592.**