Zero Turn Mower Safety

This is not a substitute for the operator' smanual. Please use the owner's manual specific to vehicle/machinery



Check worksite

- Steep terrains (more than 15 degrees)
- Unstable/Uneven grounds
- Make sure the area is clear of other people or animals
- Remove any objects that may damage the mower as
 they can be thrown or affect the stability of the mower

Clothing/PPE

- Snug/fitting clothes (no strings, loose, baggy clothes)
- Long pants/long sleeve shirts
- Sturdy shoes
- No jewelry
- Hair tied/keep under hat
- Use hearing protection
- Safety glasses or goggles

Bystanders/Passengers/No Riders

- Never allow extra riders on any self-propelled mowers
- Stop mowing and shut off the blades if people or animals enter the mowing area

Safe practices

- Make sure all safety devices including ROPS, guards, seat belts, and shields are securely in place and properly used
- Do not operate on slopes greater than 15 degrees. If the slope is more than 15 degrees, use other types of mowers/trimmers, etc.
- Reduce speed when traveling down slopes or turning. Avoid sudden starts, stops, or turns
- Do not mow from side to side when operating mowers on sloped ground. Always mow slopes in the up and down direction
- Turn off the motor before removing a foreign object
- Disconnect the spark or electric plug before repairing the mower
- Always start the mower from the driver's seat. Keep both feet on the machine at all times while it is running
- Never place the mower in motion until a worker is ready. Putting the mower in gear unintentionally could make it jerk forward without warning
- Never mount or dismount a mower while it is running. Perform proper shutdown procedures before dismounting

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Maintenance

- Follow the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule.
- Sharpen the blades: To maintain fuel efficiency and prevent turf tip shredding (whenever they become dull or every 8-10 hours of operation). After sharpening, it is important to balance the blade since an out-of-balance blade will cause the mower to vibrate excessively and will damage the equipment.
- Check mower belts: Inspect your belts seasonally for signs of cracks or damage. If they show any signs of wear, make sure to change the mower belts before making your stripes.
- Clean the mower deck: The grass, dirt, and debris hold moisture that can corrode bare metal on the spindles and mower blades, damaging them and requiring you to spend money on replacements. It is important to make sure you clean the mower deck after each use of your zero-turn mower.
- **Change the oil:** Oil changes are extremely important to the engine life of your zero-turn lawn mower. Always complete an oil change at the intervals recommended in the engine manual. Typically, oil changes are based on the number of hours you used the lawn mower. If you cannot remember how many hours, stay on the safe side and change it.
- **Check the air filter:** Consult with your manual on how to check the air filter. If it is soiled or damaged, dispose of the filter and install a new air filter.

Reference: <u>https://www.whyzeroturn.com/Zero-Turn-Lawn-Mower-Maintenance</u>