

Riding Mower Safety Checklist

Checklist Item	Y/N	Comments
General Mowing Operations		
Is the mower selected the safest piece of equipment for the operation, or should another tool, e.g., weed-eater or push-mower, be used?		
Are controls whose function is not obvious labeled or marked to indicate function, direction, and/or method of operation?		
Is a means provided that will automatically stop the implement/attachment when the operator leaves the normal operator position?		
Is service and maintenance completed according to the manufacturer's recommendations?		
Does the mower have a Roll-Over Protection System (ROPS), and if so, is it in a serviceable condition? ¹		
If mower is equipped with folding ROPS, do operators keep it in the upright position?		
Does the mower have a shutoff device that requires manual or intentional activation in order to restart the engine?		
Do foot pedals have slip-resistant surfaces or other means of minimizing the possibility of the operator's foot slipping?		
Does the mower have an operable parking brake?		
Is a slip-resistant surface provided to minimize the possibility of an operator's foot slipping off the support or platform?		
Are tires properly inflated per manufacturer's specifications?		
Are fuel tanks filled only after engine has cooled?		
Are decks raised only after the blades have stopped rotating?		
Are operators aware of the mower discharge area and avoid discharging in the direction of people and vehicles?		
Are operators trained on the specific mower being used and safety requirements of the mowing environment?		
Is the mower inspected prior to each use to ensure all controls function properly?		
When operating on sloped ground, do operators travel up and down slopes and not across?		
Are all guards and shields in place prior to operating the mower?		
If the mower is equipped with seatbelts, are they serviceable, and do operators wear them?		
Is appropriate personal protective equipment, including eye and hearing protection, worn when conducting mowing operations?		
Mowing Operations Near Roadways		
Has the park developed/implemented a SOP and JHA for mowing operations near roadways?		
Are mowers equipped with a slow moving vehicle emblem along with flashing lights, oscillating beacons, or strobes?		
Do operators wear high visibility safety apparel over torso?		
Has the park developed/implemented requirements for the use of temporary traffic control devices in accordance with the MUTCD? ²		

¹ Lawn Mowers over 1,436 lbs. are required to have ROPS from the manufacture; however, some manufactures now provide ROPS on smaller, lighter mowers. (ANSI B71.4-2004, Para. 6.6.1)

² Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. See next page for more information.

Additional Information

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD):

The *MUTCD for Streets and Highways* (2009 Edition) is a U.S. Department of Transportation publication that covers the requirements for any device that is used to control traffic. When National Park Service employees are conducting mowing operations near or around roadways, there are specific requirements that employees must follow to ensure their safety. For mowing operations, the requirements are found in Part 6 of the manual. More specifically, Chapter 6G covers the type of temporary traffic-control-zone activities that includes mowing operations. The requirements contained in chapter 6G include what markings and lighting are required on mowers, specific road signage, distance of signs from the operation, and it contains diagrams and tables to assist in compliance. Before mowing operations commence, this document should be reviewed to ensure compliance. A link to the MUTCD is provided below.

[Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#)

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standards:

There are two main ANSI standards that cover the requirements for mowers. They are ANSI B71.1-2003, *Walk-Behind Mowers and Ride-On Machines with Mowers-Safety Specifications*, and ANSI B71.4-2004, *Commercial Turf Car Equipment-Safety Specifications*. Both of these standards cover numerous requirements for the different types of mowers with which manufacturers should comply. The standards also cover the requirement for Roll Over Protection Systems (ROPS). Lastly, they list several safety guidelines operators should follow when using mowing equipment. These standards are not free and must be purchased. If interested in purchasing these or other ANSI standards, a link is provided below. WASO maintains copies of both of these standards. If there are questions on these standards, please contact the Office of Risk Management at 202-513-7299.

[Purchase ANSI Standards](#)