



BLADES of GORY !!

Toolbox Talk Lesson Plan



I hate to be so blunt but lawn mowers can create terrible, painful and disfiguring injuries.

The whirling metal piece below the mower deck is an inexpensive and effective method of shearing a variety of vegetation.

However, approximately **70 percent** of all lawn mower accidents are caused by blade contact. A person can come in contact with the blade by slipping under the mower deck, or reaching into the discharge chute.

Lawn mower blades typically turn at 3,000 to 3,600 revolutions per minute, or 50 to 60 revolutions per second. Since the blade has two cutting edges, an object in line with the blade for only **one second** can be struck as many as 120 times.

The intensity of the damage from a blade rotating under these conditions is roughly equivalent to a 1.2 pound missile traveling at 232 miles per hour. Bones coming in contact with the mower blade are typically crushed and the wound filled with dirt and grass, making it difficult for a surgeon to repair.

The typical clearance between the tip of the blade; and the inside of the lawnmower case is less than one inch. You do not have to extend a body part very far into an opening to get hit.

With the blade tip moving on average of **20, 000 feet per minute** it will strike many times before you can pull it out. The tragedy is that there are often not enough recoverable parts to reattach so the end result is a permanent amputation. Mower blades are also dirty and can deposit debris and infectious agents in the wound so that infection often results.

As long as we remain human we will continue to suffer memory lapses. We simply must find a way to shield these exposures; such that it buys us a few seconds to have our brains engage and recognize the hazard.

Never remove a guard on an operating mower!

“A lawnmower does not know the difference between a blade of grass and a finger or a toe. So it is up to the user to stay away from moving parts.”

“A moment of carelessness could lead to a lifetime of regret!”

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