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## Mowing Machinery Safe Working Practices

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1. Know your machine and its controls. Learn to stop the engine quickly in any emergency. **DO NOT USED UNLESS YOU HAVE RECEIVED RELEVANT TRAINING AND YOU ARE AUTHORISED TO DO SO.**
2. Make sure the mowing area is clear of sticks, stones, bones, wire and debris.
3. Stop the engine and disconnect spark plug wire before checking or carrying out routine maintenance.
4. Before using, always visually inspect to see that blades, blade bolts and cutter assembly are not worn or damaged. Replace worn or damaged blades together with their fixings in sets to preserve balance.
5. Damaged blades and worn bolts are major hazards. Regularly check all nuts, bolts and screws.
6. When clearing cylinders, always turn in opposite direction of cut. If this work has to be carried out in gang mowing equipment, ensure that wheel drive is disconnected.
7. Always be sure the mower is in a safe operating condition. Use only replacement parts made and guaranteed by the original manufacturer of your mower.
8. Add fuel **BEFORE** starting the engine. Avoid spilling petrol and do not fill the tank while the engine is running or while you are smoking.
9. Be especially careful when mowing whilst people, especially children, or pets are in the mowing area.
10. Never use the mower unless the grass box or guards provided by the manufacturer are in position.
11. Do not mow barefoot, in open sandals or soft-shoes. Always wear safety shoes or boots with a good grip.
12. Disengage all blade and drive clutches before starting.
13. Start the engine carefully with feet and hands well away from the blades.

14. Do not operate the engine in a confined space where exhaust fumes (carbon monoxide) can collect.
15. Stop the engine whenever you leave the mower.
16. Take special care to stop the engine before pushing the mower across gravel drives, walks or roads.
17. Do not allow unauthorised personnel to use the mower.
18. On slopes or wet grass, be extra careful of your footing.
19. Never cut grass by pulling the mower towards you.
20. Do not overspeed the engine or alter governor settings. Excessive speed is dangerous and shortens mower life.
21. Store fuel in a cool place in a container specifically designed for the purpose.
22. Never pick up or carry a mower when it is operating.
23. Warning: In the case of rotary machine, blades continue to rotate after machine is switched off.