Lawnmower Injuries

True Story
A 2-year-old boy was riding on a shelf attached to a riding lawnmower. The boy got off the mower to help the driver move a hose. When he ran to get back on the mower, he slipped and slid underneath. The mower blades sliced through his lower right leg, which had to be amputated mid-calf.

-From the Portland Press Herald

The Facts
- Each year, more than 8,300 children younger than 14 receive hospital emergency room treatment for lawnmower-related injuries.

- About one-fourth of children injured by lawnmowers are the age of 5 and younger.

- Males account for three-fourths of all lawnmower-related injuries.

What You Can Do
- Make sure that children are a safe distance from the area that you plan to mow. Be aware of where children are at all times, especially when mowing in reverse. Children 6 and younger should be kept indoors during mowing.

- Clear the mowing area of any objects such as twigs, stones and toys that could be picked up and thrown by the mower.

- Do not allow children to ride as passengers on riding mowers or garden tractors, or to play on mowers or tractors even when in storage.

- Most children are not ready to operate a walk-behind mower until at least 12 years of age or a riding mower until at least 16 years of age.

- Keep an eye on youth who are operating mowing equipment, including when they are putting gas in the mower. Provide a period of operational training, safety instruction and supervision by an adult before allowing youth to operate lawn mowing equipment.

Led By

Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit www.dsmsafekids.org.

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