

**WALK-BEHIND MOWER**

DO NOT **use this machine unless a teacher has instructed**

**you in its safe use and operation and has given permission.**

   

### **PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS**

1. **Wear proper clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE).**
2. **Ensure mower is clean. Dirt, oil and debris contribute to fires.**
3. **Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional.**
4. **Ensure cutting blades are sharp, secure and in good condition. Damaged blades can cause a dangerous imbalance.**
5. **Repair or replace any loose, broken, missing or damaged parts.**
6. **Faulty equipment must not be used. Report suspect machinery immediately.**

#### OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. **Clear the area to be mowed of debris that may be thrown.**
2. **Be aware of the potential for ejected material and ensure that no person or animal is endangered when operating the mower.**
3. **Avoid mowing in wet conditions due to lack of traction.**
4. **Maintain a proper balance and secure footing when starting the mower.**
5. **Keep clear of moving machine parts.**
6. **Operate at a speed slow enough to keep control over unexpected hazards.**
7. **Mow in a forward direction.**
8. **When mowing on a slope, mow across the slope – this keeps a better distance between the operator and the mower in case of a slip.**
9. **Never leave the machine running unattended.**
10. **Always shut off the mower, remove spark plug lead and allow it to come to a complete standstill before adjusting or clearing grass clogs.**
11. **Allow the mower to cool before refuelling. Use only approved safety containers to store fuel.**
12. **Turn off fuel supply when mowing has concluded.**

#### HOUSEKEEPING

1. **Clean away any oil and debris from in and around engine and catcher parts.**
2. **Keep the work area or implement shed in a clean and tidy condition.**

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

**◼ Rapidly rotating cutting blades ◼ Noise ◼ Ejected material and flying debris**

**This SOP should be used in conjunction with Curriculum Activity Risk Management Modules**

***Acknowledgement****: Much of the information for this document has been sourced from content kindly provided by Department for Education SA website.*

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| **Date of last review** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |