



**NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

NJ PEOSH ALERT #35



Safety & Health Alert

PREVENTING WORKER INJURIES AND DEATHS INVOLVING TRACTORS AND MOWING EQUIPMENT


This Safety Alert is being sent in response to recent worker injuries and deaths involving tractors and mowing equipment. The incidents, characterized as rollover accidents, involved sloped terrain and hazards including caught-between, struck-by and drowning.


FOR MORE INFO:


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ATTENTION: ALL NEW JERSEY EMPLOYERS

Please ensure that this information is shared with all appropriate personnel

- Employees may be exposed to serious injury or death while operating mowing equipment or tractors on slopes, near motor vehicle traffic or in close proximity to water.
- Employers who direct their employees to operate equipment, such as tractors, zero-turn mowers, riding mowers and stand-on mowers must be aware of manufacturer limitations such as precautions while operating on slopes, near traffic and in the proximity of water.
- Employers must consider these limitations when assigning work to their employees and assure that the equipment being used is properly maintained and suitable for the terrain and site conditions of the work area. Temporary traffic control measures may be necessary.
- **Employees must be trained in safe tractor and mowing operations.** Employers must ensure that training is specific to the equipment employees are assigned to use.
- Training should comply with the manufacturer's recommendations and include familiarization with, and use of, mower and tractor safety equipment such as seat belts and roll over protection, precautions concerning motor vehicle traffic and the use of operator-presence features.



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**OFFICE OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
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- Employees should receive training concerning operating techniques on slopes including maneuvers involving a change of speed or direction. Operators should also be familiar with the effect of wet grass and soil condition on mower and tractor performance.
- Training should also familiarize operators with weight and balance considerations such as the operation of adjustable mower wings, mowing with grass catchers and other attachments / implements and counterweights, as applicable.
- Employers can reference OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1928, ANSI/OPEI B71.4-2017, "American National Standard for Commercial Turf Care Equipment – Safety Specifications" as well as material published by the Association of Equipment Manufacturers for more information.