

## **The “S” in Summer is for Safety**

Summer is a time of pool parties, barbecues, and outdoor gatherings. Most of these events are held in a well manicured lawn. It is important to not only remember to care for the lawn maintenance equipment, but also to take care in the operation of this equipment. We at Charles S. Snyder Inc. would like to take the opportunity to go over a few “Safety Tips” to keep in mind when doing your lawn prep work prior to your outdoor gatherings.

Lawn mower injuries are up since 2009 nearly 3%. In 2010, two hundred fifty-three thousand people were treated for lawn mower related injuries seventeen thousand of them were children under the age of 19. According to most physicians the best way to treat a lawn mower-related injury is to prevent it from ever happening.

### **List below are some tips from the experts to prevent lawn mower related injuries:**

1. Children should be at least 12 years old before they operate any lawn mower, and at least 16 years old for a ride-on mower.
2. Children should never be passengers on ride-on mowers.
3. Always wear sturdy shoes while mowing – not sandals.
4. Young children should be at a safe distance from the area you are mowing.
5. Pick up stones, toys and debris from the lawn to prevent injuries from flying objects.
6. Use a mower with a control that stops it from moving forward if the handle is released.
7. Never pull backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary – carefully look for others behind you when you do.
8. Always wear eye and hearing protection.
9. Read and follow the manufacturer’s instructions before using your mower for the first time. Insist that anyone else who uses your mower reads the instructions first.
10. Never start your lawn mower in a garage or shed.
11. For walk-behind mowers, mow parallel with slopes; for tractors and riding mowers, mow up and down slopes.

Please take the time to read over these with anyone in your family that helps with your lawn maintenance. We, at Charles S. Snyder Inc., are a family owned and operated business since 1940 and we like to ensure that our customers are operating their equipment in the safest manner possible.