### Equipment/Task Name
- **Walk behind Mower Equipment (Push Mower)**

### Departments Impacted
- Physical Plant (Landscape)
- Biology (Meeman Field Station Caretaker)

### Purpose
A walk behind mower is a machine utilizing one or more revolving blades to cut a grass surface to an even height. Walk-behind rotary mowers come in two basic types: self-propelled and push.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>HAZARDS</th>
<th>CONTROLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Preparing for Use (i.e. – check fluids, deck, blade, loose parts.) | Skin or eye contact with fuel | PER Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for fuel / oil  
- Wear appropriate gloves.  
- Wear safety goggles or face shield.  
Hand hazard and foot hazard | ALWAYS make sure the mower is “OFF” before:  
- Inspecting  
- Trying to remove debris from the deck  
- Trying to remove debris from the debris discharge area  
Wear proper hand protection (gloves) during the initial inspection of the mower and when removing debris. |
| 2. Fueling | Fire/Burns | Add fuel outside or in approved well-ventilated area using approved fuel containers.  
Clean-up spills immediately with absorbent; do not start engine until fumes have dispersed.  
Do not add fuel to hot engine.  
Keep fuel away from heat sources, sparks, and open flames. |
| 3. Inspect area and weather conditions. | Bodily injury | Clear the area of debris such as rocks, twigs, branches, etc.  
Slips, trips, and falls | Be aware of the surroundings. Avoid stepping on objects that may cause a slip, trip, or fall.  
Do not cut grass if it is too wet.  
Lightning strikes | Never cut grass during an electrical storm. Seek shelter indoors. |
| 4. Operating a Lawn Mower | Muscle strain | Assess muscle strength when starting the engine by rapidly pulling the recoil-start rope.  
Eye injury | Wear safety goggles/safety glasses with side shields or wear face shield.  
Hand injury | Wear appropriate gloves.  
Hearing damage | Wear ear plugs or ear muffs. |
### Burns
Avoid contact with hot parts of engine such as muffler, etc.

### Electric shock
- Follow manufacturer’s instructions.
- Stay an approved distance from all power lines.
- Secure area if electrical hazards are present.

### 5. Procedure for malfunctioning or broken equipment

#### Bodily injury
- Obtain Accident Prevention Tag-mark equipment “Do Not Use” – specify problem or hazard.
- Whenever possible isolate power source so equipment cannot be used. (Lock Out- Tag Out).
- Notify shop and/or take equipment to shop.

### Required Personal Protective Equipment
- Hearing protection
- Safety glasses or face shield
- Appropriate gloves (for dispensing fuel – optional for use of lawn mower)

### Required Training
- Training with a competent person
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Read, understand, and follow manufacturer’s safety instructions

### Equipment Procedures/Requirements
1. Operate equipment in strict accordance with Manufacturer’s instructions.
2. Only authorized users can operate equipment.
3. Report any observed defect or safety hazard to your supervisor immediately.
4. Where any object handled would possibly cause injury to feet if dropped, safety shoes will be worn.
5. Where any object handled could possibly cause cuts, punctures or abrasions to hands, appropriate gloves will be worn. (Exception: where rotating machinery presents a greater hazard of entangling gloves, they are optional at the supervisor’s discretion).
6. Keep hands, hair and loose clothing clear of all moving parts.

### Additional Precautions for fuel powered engines
1. Always operate in an open well-ventilated area or vent the engine exhaust directly outdoors.
2. Never fuel the engine while running or in the presence of an open flame.
3. Wipe up spilled fuel immediately and wait for fumes to disperse before starting the engine.
4. Never remove the radiator pressure cap from liquid cooled engines while they are hot to prevent scalding.
5. Stop the engine before performing any maintenance or troubleshooting. The ignition system should be disabled to prevent accidental start of the engine.
6. Keep all guards and shields in place.
7. Keep hands, hair and clothing away from moving parts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOP ID</th>
<th>G006</th>
<th>Related Documents</th>
<th>Creation/Revision Date</th>
<th>07/23/2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Suggestions, questions, or comments? Please contact EH&S