



# Zero Turn Radius Riding Mower Safety

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A 5-Minute Safety Training Aid

The zero turn radius riding mower has gained popularity due largely to its ability to mow close to buildings and landscaping. However, improper use of the mower and/or lack of safety precautions combined with the mower's ability to turn at 180 degrees, and its low center of gravity have given rise to tipping hazards. By following the below safety tips, you can do your part in reducing such accidents.

## Safety Basics

- Read and follow the directions in the operator's manual for your mower. If you or your employer does not have the operator's manual, contact the manufacturer for a new copy.
- Keep clear of the mower's rotating parts.
- Avoid mowing in reverse.
- Wear any Personal Protective Equipment required by the operator's manual.
- Hand trim areas near water or on drop offs.

## Slope Operations

- Do NOT operate a zero turning radius mower on a slope greater than 15 degrees.
- Keep the mower's movement slow and steady.
- Apply even pressure on the steering levers.
- Maintain a safe distance from drop offs, water and other hazards.



Photo Courtesy of Toro

- Do not make rapid corrections or turns.
  - Mow up and down a slope; not across.
  - Avoid wet slopes to prevent losing traction and tipping.
- Many zero turn radius riding mower manufacturers are now equipping their mowers with rollover protection systems (ROPS) and seatbelts. Safe operating procedures must still be followed even when a mower is equipped with ROPS.

This Take 5 was published by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation with information from Toro, Louisiana AgCenter and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.



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