Many injuries result from the misuse of power
push mowers and power
line trimmers. Many accidents
involving power lawn equipment
result in severe lacerations and often amputations. Wounds
caused by these accidents are prone to infection due to the
unsanitary conditions of the environment. Help reduce
these accidents by following a few simple safety precau-
tions.

Power Push Mowers
- Read the operator’s manual and know how to operate the
  machine properly.
- Don’t disable or bypass safety devices.
- Read all equipment warning labels.
- Protect yourself and others against thrown objects by
clearing the work area of rocks, sticks, toys, or any other
materials that could become a missile if struck by the
mower blades.
- Keep the discharge chute guard or grass catcher in place
  at all times.
- Keep bystanders, especially children, away from the
  mowing area.
- Keep hands and feet away from the mower blades while
  it is running. If the discharge chute clogs or the grass
  catcher is full, stop the engine before attempting to clear
  the clog or empty the grass catcher.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.
- Stop the engine before adjusting the wheels of the
  mower.
- Mow in a forward direction whenever possible.
- Do not walk backwards while pulling the mower toward
  you. If you trip, the mower could end up on top of your
  feet or legs.
- Mow across the slope of hillsides. Do not mow up and
down the slope.
- To ensure good footing, wait until the grass is dry before
  mowing.

- Handle fuel safely. Before refueling, stop the engine
  and allow it to cool. Wipe up spilled fuel or allow it to
  evaporate before starting an engine.
- Never refuel gasoline-powered equipment indoors.

Power Line Trimmers
- Read the operator’s manual and get proper instructions
  before operating a trimmer.
- Never operate the trimmer with the guard removed.
- Clear the work area of objects such as sticks, rocks,
  wire, etc., before starting work.
- Clear the work area of people and animals for a radius of
  approximately 35 feet around the operator.
- Always wear eye protection.
- Keep the cutting line or blade away from your feet and
  legs.
- Position the trimmer away from your body to avoid
  contact with the muffler or other hot engine parts.
- Move the trimmer in a sweeping motion away from your
  body.

Clothing and Maintenance
- Wear close-fitting clothes, long pants or slacks, and
  closed-toe shoes with traction soles. Do not operate
  any power equipment while barefoot, or when wearing
  thongs or sandals.
- Loose clothing, scarves, dangling jewelry, and untucked
  shirt tails can snag on controls or get caught in moving
  parts.
- Protect your eyes with safety glasses or goggles, and
  your ears with earplugs.
- Wear gloves to service or adjust equipment, especially
  when working on the blades.
- When working on equipment with blade guards
  removed, take out the spark plug and ground the spark
  plug wire to prevent accidental engine start.

Remember to practice safety. Don’t learn it by accident.