Landscaping – Working with Machinery Stats and Facts



FACTS

1. **Insufficient Training:** Operators using landscaping machinery (e.g., lawnmowers, chainsaws, skid-steer loaders) without proper training risk severe injuries, including cuts, amputations, or crush injuries due to mishandling.
2. **Lack of PPE:** Not wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) like safety goggles, gloves, ear protection, or steel-toed boots increases exposure to flying debris, noise, and foot injuries.
3. **Equipment Maintenance Failures:** Poorly maintained machinery, such as mowers with dull blades or trimmers with faulty safety guards, can malfunction, leading to accidents or injuries.
4. **Improper Machine Operation:** Bypassing safety features (e.g., blade guards) or using machinery for unintended tasks (e.g., a trimmer for heavy branches) heightens the risk of serious accidents.
5. **Vibration and Repetitive Strain:** Prolonged use of vibrating tools (e.g., leaf blowers, string trimmers) without breaks or ergonomic grips can cause hand-arm vibration syndrome or musculoskeletal disorders.
6. **Bystander Safety Risks:** Operating machinery near others without clear boundaries or warnings can result in injuries from projectiles, noise exposure, or collisions.

STATS

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported in 2020 that landscaping and groundskeeping workers had a non-fatal injury rate of 13.7 per 100 full-time workers, with 25% involving machinery like mowers or trimmers.
- WorkSafeBC noted in 2022 that 15% of landscaping worker injuries in British Columbia were related to machinery, with 40% linked to inadequate training or PPE non-use.
- A 2021 OSHA report found that 30% of landscaping industry violations involved improper use or maintenance of powered equipment, contributing to accidents like rollovers or blade injuries.
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) stated in 2023 that landscaping firms with mandatory machinery safety training

reduced injury rates by up to 20%.

- A 2021 Statistics Canada report indicated that 10% of landscaping workers experienced near-miss incidents with machinery, often due to lack of clear safety zones or supervision.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reported in 2023 that 18% of landscaping machinery injuries involved electrical shocks or burns, largely from improper handling of electric or fuel-powered tools.