

	TRAVIS COUNTY ESD #5 MANCHACA FIRE RESCUE Department Directive	D2017-009
		Effective: 9/19/2017
	Care of Lawn Equipment	Rescinds: na
		From: BC Poole

Manchaca Fire Rescue attempts to provide its members with the best equipment within our means in order for you to be able to do your job to the best of your ability. This applies to everything from apparatus to hand tools. The same applies to the lawn equipment we provide to maintain the station grounds. As with any investment in equipment, there is a responsibility on the part of the users and by extension their officers, to properly utilize and maintain the equipment. When utilizing our lawn equipment, users should follow these best practices and common sense guidelines.

SCAG OPERATION

1. Before EACH USE: Inspect the mower for any loose components, belts, bolts, etc. (especially the spindle housings), tire inflation, oil level, etc.
2. When cutting *behind* the buildings, the deck height should be no lower than 3 ¾". 3" is fine for the front areas.
3. Blade damage from object strikes such as rocks, stumps, curbs, and foreign objects should be avoided. Personnel should scan the environment for possible strike objects and operate at a speed were such awareness is possible. When going over a curb, **disengage the blades and raise the deck**. Do not operate the mower at high speeds over curbs where damage can occur to the wheels, rollers, or deck assembly. Also, watch for lawn sprinkler components and avoid running them over with the wheels of the SCAG.
4. The mower has several grease points with fittings. These points should be greased at regular intervals.
5. When you have finished mowing –
 - a. Clean accumulate debris from the mower and deck area. Remove the spindle covers and clear any clippings and dirt away from the spindle pulleys.
 - b. After mowing wet ground, remove any dirt/mud from the mower with the pressure-sprayer if necessary. Blow the mower dry with a leaf-blower to prevent standing water on mower surfaces.
 - c. **TOP OFF THE FUEL TANK AFTER USE!**
6. Notify the on duty officer of any missing parts or other problems found with the unit.

OPERATION OF PUSH MOWERS AND STRING TRIMMERS

1. Inspect the equipment for fuel, oil (if applicable), and signs of damage
2. As with the SCAG, avoid deck heights that would contribute to blade strikes and watch for law sprinkler components
3. Do not use the equipment on items it was not intended to cut or in a manner in which the equipment was not intended.
4. When finished with the equipment, make sure that it is cleaned, and serviced as needed (fuel, oil, string, etc.)
5. Notify the on duty officer of any missing parts or other problems found with the equipment.