

# LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### APRIL 2018

# MOWER SAFETY



- Shut the mower down and use a broom handle sized implement to remove stuck objects.
- Always keep people away from areas being mowed.
- Footwear that is proper is very important.
- Ear protection should be worn.
- Make sure all mower shields and guards are in place.
- Only mow an area that has been walked to remove objects/obstructions.
- Wear safety glasses always.
- Every mower should have a kill switch that stops the engine when the operator is not seated.
- Reach under a mower only when it is off.

**Example #1:** An employee was cutting the grass on a riding mower when a soccer goal's netting became entangled in the back of the mower. Instead of shutting down the mower and properly untangling the netting, he tried to do it while on the mower by reaching behind himself. The mower lurched forward pulling his arm backward. He has had 2 shoulder surgeries and the total incurred on the file is over \$173,000. This is a very preventable injury.

**Example #2:** An employee was on riding lawnmower cutting grass when he struck a broken sign post hidden by the grass and was thrown from the mower to the ground landing on his head and shoulder. He sustained a torn labrum in his shoulder requiring surgery and physical therapy. The total incurred on the file is currently over \$92,000. This employee could have been injured much more severely and it could have been prevented by inspecting the area to be mowed first.