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Tips: Proper Safety Preparation Before Beginning Yard Work

A recent *Consumer Reports* poll on lawn care shows that consumers are not taking all the proper precautions before mowing their lawn, according to the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI). The trade association has issued a list of top safety measures every consumer should make before turning on the lawnmower or edger or trimmer to avoid unintentional injury.

"As spring calls people out into their yards, we urge consumers to make certain preparations even before the lawn and garden products come out of the garage," said Kris Kiser, vice president, public affairs, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute. "Making good decisions around using mowers, edgers, leaf blowers and other maintenance tools are key to yard safety." According to the OPEI, before you even turn on equipment, consumers should:

1. Know how to operate the equipment. Read the operator's manual before using any power equipment. Know where the controls are and what they do. Follow safety instructions.
2. Handle gas carefully. Fill up before you start and when the engine is cold.
3. Dress properly for yard work, wearing substantial shoes, long pants and close-fitting clothes.
4. Clear up the area before you mow. Always remove stones, sticks and other objects from the area so that objects won't fly up and hit anyone. The most common injuries are from debris flying up.
5. Wear eye protection to prevent injury from projectiles.
6. Wear hearing protection to prevent potentially damaging sounds from reaching your ears without eliminating the sounds you'll need to hear.
7. Don't let music distract you from hearing potentially important calls or seeing important hazards.
8. Clear the area of people and pets. Keep children preferably indoors under adult supervision.
9. Always start up the mower outdoors.
10. Do not use alcohol, other controlled substances or medicines that impair judgment when using outdoor power equipment.

(Courtesy Occupational Health and Safety)

"Is the spring coming?" he said. "What is it like?"...
 "It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine..."
 — Frances Hodgson Burnett,
The Secret Garden

Courtesy of ISU Public Safety

Spring Break: Have Fun! Stay Safe!

Below are a few tips that ISU Public Safety hopes you keep in mind during your spring break:

- ◆ If you are traveling by car somewhere: Take turns behind the wheel. Rotating drivers can keep everyone rested with the added bonus of taking turns deciding on the music. Whoever sits shotgun should stay awake to keep the driver company.
- ◆ Take a map. These days everyone relies on their phones for navigation, but in some places, where service isn't strong, you can lose that ability.
- ◆ Never leave valuables in plain view in your car. Lock items in your trunk before reaching your destination.
- ◆ Before leaving your hotel, take a card from the front desk with the name of the hotel, phone number, and address, just in case you need help getting back.
- ◆ All genuine taxis will have some sort of ID or badge. You can check for this before accepting a ride. Stay alert during any taxi, Uber, Lyft, etc. rides. Follow along on google maps or a navigation service, if you can, to ensure they are taking you the right direction.
- ◆ The often cramped conditions of a subway or metro can be an ideal place for pick-pockets to strike and is definitely time to up your awareness.
- ◆ If you are going to carry a backpack, consider getting a small lock for your zipper and keep the key in your pocket. Another theft reduction is to carry your backpack on your front instead of your back in crowded areas.
- ◆ When you check in at the front desk, use discretion in saying your room number out loud for anyone in the lobby to hear.
- ◆ Choose awareness! Make a mental note of where the nearest fire exits and stairwells are located in case you need to evacuate.
- ◆ When you get to your room, check that all of the window and door locks are secure. Close your door tightly when entering or leaving your room. Some doors have a slow release and could remain open after you leave.
- ◆ Using the Do Not Disturb sign won't prevent housekeeping from being able to enter your room, but will highly reduce the likeliness of that happening. If you are going to have housekeeping in your room, leave your valuables in the safe when you are gone.
- ◆ Try to go to the ATM in groups, but avoid getting overly complacent about safety just because you're traveling in numbers.
- ◆ Party smart. Be responsible. Decide **before** you go out what your limits should be. Do I want to drink tonight? If so, how much?
- ◆ Always keep an eye on your drink. If you go the bathroom, take your drink with you! Date rape drugs can be put into any drink, including non-alcoholic drinks.
- ◆ You aren't going to be at your most aware when drinking which can put you in the position of being targeted by criminals. Is this fair? No. Is it your fault? **Never**. If a mugger is looking for someone to steal a purse from and they have to choose between someone who is obviously intoxicated and someone who is not, the choice is simple. This applies to all forms of crime, **including sexual assault**.
- ◆ For this reason, when drinking, is even more important to follow the golden rule of partying safe: **Come with your friends. Leave with your friends**. We need to look out for each other and if you see someone not in your group in a potentially bad situation, look out for them too. Being an active bystander is the best way we can work together to end violence of all kinds. *(Courtesy Girls Fight back and Lyft)*

FUN FACTS

The name March comes from the Roman god of war, Mars.

March is Women's History Month.

It's also Deaf History Month; Irish-American History Month and Youth Art Month!

Daylight Savings Time begins March 13.

St. Patrick's Day is March 17.

Spring begins March 20th along with Spring Break here at ISU.

Famous Birthdays in March:

Dr. Seuss, Terrence Howard, Carrie Underwood, Albert Einstein, Queen Latifa, Jim Parsons, Bruce Willis, Vanessa Williams, J.J. Watt, Shaquille O'Neal, Adam Levine and Lady Gaga (just to name a few!)

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Emergency Preparedness Tip of the Month — Flood Safety Tips

Flood Warning vs. Watch

What is the difference between a Flood Watch and a Flood Warning issued by the National Weather Service?

Flash Flood Warning: Take Action!

A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.

Flood Warning: Take Action! A Flood Warning is issued when the hazardous weather event is immi-

nent or already happening. A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

Flood Watch: Be Prepared: A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a specific hazardous weather event to occur. A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

Flood Advisory: Be Aware: An Flood Advisory is issued when a specific weather event that is forecast to occur may become a nuisance. A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. However, it may cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, it could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

(Courtesy National Weather Service)



1962 Portneuf flood at Irving athletic field

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water.
- Do not drive into flooded roadways or around a barricade; **Turn Around, Don't Drown!** Water may be deeper than it appears and can hide many hazards (i.e. sharp objects, washed out road surfaces, electrical wires, chemicals, etc.).
- **Don't go into a basement**, or any room, if water covers the electrical outlets or if cords are submerged.



- **If you see sparks or hear buzzing, crackling, snapping or popping noises --get out!** Stay out of water that may have electricity in it!
- **If you have access to sandbags or other materials**, use them to protect your home from flood waters if you have sufficient time to do so. Filling sandbags can take more time than you may think.
- **Have a professional install check-valves** in plumbing to prevent flood waters from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Make sure your **sump pump** is working and consider having a backup.
- **Make sure your electric circuit breakers, or fuses**, are clearly marked for each area of your home.
- **Monitor local radio and television** (including NOAA Weather Radio), internet and social media for information and updates.
- Get out of areas subject to flooding and get to higher ground immediately.
- **If told to evacuate**, do so immediately.
- **Be sure to lock your home as you leave.** If you have time, disconnect utilities and appliances.

Training Opportunities



On April 11, 2017 Public Safety in conjunction with Facilities Services will be offering fire extinguisher training. The training will be from 2:00pm to 3:00pm at Building 26 (Shipping & Receiving). If you are interested please contact Carol Prescott at 208-282-2426.

May 16 to May 18 Public Safety will be hosting a MGT 361 - Managing Critical Incidents for Higher Education Institutions. If you are interested in attending, you can go to the idahoprepares.com website and register for the class, or contact Carol Prescott at 208-282-2426 for more information.

Emergency Actions to Take in Your Building

Severe Flooding

In case of imminent or actual flooding:

- Call Facilities Services on Weekdays 8-4.
- Call Public Safety after hours and on weekends.

If you can do so **safely**:

- Secure vital equipment, records, and hazardous materials by moving to higher, safer ground.
- Shut off all non-essential equipment.
- Wait for instructions from Facilities Services and/or Public Safety.
- Avoid standing/walking into flood water due to the threat of electrocution.

- Once you receive notification to evacuate:
 - a. Help move all faculty, staff and/or students to a safe area, away from the building in danger
 - b. Locate those persons with special needs and help them evacuate or provide their location to emergency responders.
- Do NOT return to the building until instructed to do so by Public Safety or other official emergency responder.
- Call Facilities Services for assistance with flood clean-up as soon as possible to avoid mold and unsanitary conditions.



Picture of a flooded basement

Spring Break at Home and Easter Crime Prevention Tips

ISU Public Safety would like everyone to have a safe and enjoyable Spring Break and Easter Holiday even when you stay close to home. Please pay attention to your surroundings. Take extra precaution and not allow yourself to be easy targets to criminals who look for an easy opportunity. Listed below are a few safety tips in an effort to prevent you from being the victim of a crime.

- Don't assume you're safe because it's daytime, crime can happen anytime.
- Always be cautious of strangers and trust your instincts if something doesn't seem right remove yourself from the situation.

- Keep your porch lights on or invest in a motion censored light outside of your home.
- Children should not do anything while they are home alone that they are not allowed to do when parents are there.
- Remind children to never give out personal information over the internet or let people you meet online know that you are home alone.
- Remind your children to not let anyone into your home without your permission.
- Advise your children that if something goes wrong while they're home alone to call a trusted adult or 9-1-1 for a police officer to respond.
- Report all suspicious activity, vehicles, or activity by calling 9-1-1.

Public Safety Spot Light—Rod Jackson, Emergency Notification System Coordinator

Our spotlight feature for this issue is Rod Jackson our Emergency Notification and Security Systems Manager here at Public Safety.

Rod Jackson started out in the Navy then in 1998 began working at ISU in the IT Department. He moved to Public Safety in 2001.

Rod directs contractors and ISU personnel on installation of our indoor and outdoor emergency notification systems, as well as our CCTV and intrusion alarm systems, and radio systems.

He installs, troubleshoots and maintains our server room equipment as well as our Emergency Operations Center equipment (i.e. telephones, laptops, etc.).

When you think about it that's over 766 cameras. On top of that he helps maintain Public Safety's central alarm station that manages over 80 fire alarm systems and several intrusion alarm systems.

Rod is a great asset to our Team!

