



# Slope Mowing Safety

While slopes and hillsides add aesthetics and dimension to the landscape, they can be very hazardous to mow.

## Safe Mower Operation

- Read the operator's manual.
- If the mower has a roll-over protection system (ROPS), a safety belt is mandatory and should always be worn during operation.
- Cease operation if tractor stability is questionable, or if you are unsure of the ability to continue safely.
- Know how each attachment affects the stability of the tractor.
- Utilize counter-weighting systems to increase the balance of weight being transferred to the tractor/mower when using front and rear mounting attachments.
- Obey mowing angle limitations based on your specific tractor's capability both with and without attached equipment options.

AccidentFund.com  
1-866-206-5851



**AccidentFund**  
Insurance Company of America

*Part of the AF Group*

Accident Fund Insurance Company of America is a member of AF Group. All policies are underwritten by a licensed insurer subsidiary of AF Group.

## Want to know more?

As your WorkSafe Consultants, we're committed to providing you unrivaled loss-control services and online safety materials, including:

- Safety-training modules accessible 24/7 for policyholders' employees
- Loss control booklets and other printed materials available to print and order from our website
- Low-cost safety-training videos from our online library

Check them out today at [AccidentFund.com](http://AccidentFund.com).



## Operating on Slopes

If your mower is not capable of safely mowing a slope, it is always better to mow the slope with other equipment, such as a grass trimmer. Spending an hour using a trimmer to mow the slope is better than risking the potentially fatal incidents that can occur when operating a mower on a slope.

If your mower is capable of properly mowing a slope, loss-of-control and tip-over incidents can be prevented through the use of safe work practices, such as:

- Be familiar with the emergency parking brake, along with the tractor controls and their functions.
- Use low range when operating on slopes greater than 15 degrees.
- Never shift between high and low range while on a slope. Always move the machine to level ground and place the selector lever in park before shifting range.
- Do not drive where the machine could lose traction or tip over. Variables such as wet surfaces and loose ground increase the hazard level.
- Keep alert for hidden hazards on the terrain.
- Stay away from drop-offs, ditches and embankments.
- Pulling loads on hills decreases safety. It is the responsibility of the owner/operator to determine loads that can safely be controlled on slopes.
- Transport the machine with the attachment lowered or close to the ground to improve stability.
- Drive in an up and down direction while operating on slopes.
- If turning is necessary while driving across slopes, reduce speed and turn slowly in the downhill direction.
- Ensure a sufficient supply of fuel for continuous operation. A minimum of one-half tank of fuel is recommended.

