

Lawn Mower Safety

Mowing the lawn, cutting back overgrown weeds and trimming hedges are all common tasks when it comes to lawn maintenance. While taking care of the yard can be a routine chore, it is not without its dangers.

Every year, children are enrolled in **The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program** due to lawn mower accidents. A few seconds in the wrong place changed their lives forever.

Serious injuries involving lawn mowers and children can occur from:

- Falling off a riding lawn mower while riding with an adult
- Being run over because the operator does not see them
- Tripping or slipping under a lawn mower
- Being hit by debris
- Being too young to operate the machine

Child Amputees Say, “PLAYSAFE!”

The War Amps PLAYSAFE Program was started in 1978 when it became apparent that many children being enrolled in the CHAMP Program had lost limbs in accidents while at play.

The War Amps believes no one is better qualified to deliver the PLAYSAFE™ message than child amputees, who know what it is like to live without a limb.

PLAYSAFE is a unique “kids-to-kids” approach to child safety. Child amputees – many of whom have lost limbs in accidents – spread the safety message by speaking to schools and community groups across the country, hosting displays and riding on board the PLAYSAFE float in parades. They also deliver the message in public service announcements and videos, warning other children to: “Spot the danger *before* you play!”

The War Amps video, *Lawn Mowers Are Mean Machines*, focuses on the dangers of lawn mowers and is a valuable resource for families, educators and community groups. Visit waramps.ca/playsafe to watch the video.