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"The safety of the people is the highest law" CICERO

POWER PRESS SAFETY DIVISION

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CONSTRUCTION SAFETY DIVISION

The Most Dangerous Machine in Your Home

According to Toro safety expert Rogers Williams of Urbana, the most dangerous machine on the farm or at home is your lawn mower. Underwriters Laboratories reports that each year lawn mowers send 84,000 people to the hospital.

Because the lawn mower seems so familiar, its dangers get forgotten. People take a relaxed approach to the cutting machine whose steel blades whirl at 3500 rpms. Just a few weeks ago I tried a lawsuit for a 8th grade girl whose friend ran over her foot and cut off her big toe. Her medical bills were \$20, 488.

During the trial, the surgeon, Dr. John Kefalas described his experience with lawn mower amputations while he was a resident at Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis. He told of hundreds of injuries in which toes, feet, fingers and hands were cut off by mowers. Some victims died.

Here are a few reminders about safety:

- 1. shut off the mower if a person comes into your yard
- 2. wear work boots, not running shoes or sandals
- 3. disconnect the spark plug wire before doing mower maintenance.

Please tell your family and friends about these safety tips. Have a safe summer.

Respectfully,

William C. Faber, Jr