

FLEET SAFETY

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Vehicle Inspection

A final key component to an effective fleet safety program is instituting a daily vehicle inspection procedure. All drivers/operators should perform a circle inspection prior to driving to ensure that a vehicle or piece of equipment is safe for operation. All previously unreported body damage should be noted and reported. At a minimum, the following items should be checked on a circle inspection form;

- check fluids such as oil, coolant, windshield washer and top up as required,
- check tires for defects and proper inflation,
- check all lights and directional signals,
- check horn and audible reverse alarm,
- check first aid kits, fire extinguishers and emergency equipment,
- refuel as required,
- ensure that copies of accident report form, vehicle insurance and registration are in the vehicle.

In summation, the information presented in this article represents only the basics of a fleet safety program. Such a program can be as simple or complex as one wishes. The important point is to establish a program which demonstrates an ongoing commitment to safety which benefits employees through increased safety and lowers repair costs and insurance premiums. Develop a safety policy and a defensive driving philosophy and make sure that it is continuously reinforced through training and support. Send employees regularly to DDC training, and for specialized vehicles and equipment, bring in the supplier or manufacturer to provide training. In many equipment ten-

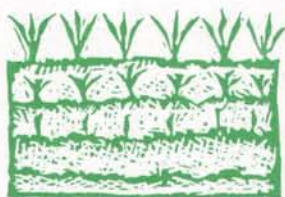
ders we include a clause which states how many hours of training the supplier must perform upon delivery of the unit. Regularly obtain driver abstracts for all drivers to ensure that everyone has a valid licence.

Finally, recognize employee safe driving through awards such as pins, certificates, luncheons, even just coffee and donuts. Such a program will foster a safer workplace while at the same time reducing operating costs for fleet management. Fleet Safety Programs - they do make a difference!

GRASS CLIPPINGS

Yearly removal of clippings from bluegrass cut at one inch were found to contain 5.7 lb. of nitrogen, 0.6 lb. of phosphorus and 3.4 lb of potassium per 1000 square feet.

As a leaf develops immature cells at the base of the leaf enlarge and mature forcing the leaf tip upward until all cells at the base are mature. This process may take from three to five weeks depending on growing conditions. Successive mowings remove the blade elevated above the mowing height. The green stub left below the mowing height may live for several more weeks.



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