



# FLASH POINTS

As Midwesterners, we know the thrill that comes with the first real sign of spring. After months of cold winds, gray skies, and snow-covered streets, those warmer temperatures and sunny days bring a much-needed boost of energy and optimism. That familiar feeling—**spring fever**—is in full swing! Whether you're itching to clean out the garage, go for a bike ride, start your garden, or just take a long walk without a winter coat, spring is the perfect time to hit the reset button.

But as we jump into the season, it's also important to keep safety top of mind. Here are a few key reminders to help you enjoy spring safely:

**Be Cautious around Ice & Water:** Even as temps rise, lakes and rivers can still have unstable ice or fastmoving meltwater. Keep a safe distance and supervise children closely.

**Protect from the Sun:** As the weather warms up, sun exposure increases. Even before peak summer, it's important to protect your skin. Apply sunscreen, reapply regularly, and stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water.

**Prepare for Storms:** Spring can bring sudden thunderstorms and even tornadoes. Review your emergency plan and make sure your weather alerts are active.

**Practice Ladder Safety:** Spring cleaning often means getting up high to clean gutters or trim branches. Always use a sturdy ladder on level ground, and never overreach.

**Check Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Use the change in seasons as a reminder to test detectors, and replace batteries if needed.

**Watch for Allergies:** Pollen levels can spike quickly in spring. Keep an eye on allergy forecasts, and consider keeping windows closed on high pollen days.

**Drive Defensively:** Spring means more cyclists, runners, and children playing outside. Drive cautiously, especially in neighborhoods and near parks.

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### PRODUCT SAFETY RECALLS

# SPRING SAFETY

## LAWN MOWERS

According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission report, an estimated 80,000 people are treated in emergency rooms yearly for lawn-mower-related injuries. Additionally, approximately 9,000 of those injuries involve children.



As lawn mowing season peaks, so does the risk of accidents and fires. Using and maintaining lawn mowers properly is key to preventing injuries, fires, and equipment damage. Always review the operator's manual before use, and follow basic safety precautions to ensure a safe and trouble-free mowing season.



### SAFETY

- Always keep shields and guards in place to avoid contact with blades and other moving parts.
- Never allow children to ride as passengers; ensure they remain indoors or at a safe distance during mowing.
- Clear the lawn of stones, sticks, toys, and other debris before mowing to prevent injuries from flying objects.
- Operators should wear long pants, sturdy closed-toe shoes (not sandals), and, depending on conditions, gloves, hearing protection, and safety glasses.
- Follow age guidelines: children should be at least 12 years old to operate walk-behind mowers and 16 for riding mowers



### MAINTENANCE

- Always refuel your mower with the engine turned off and fully cooled, as hot components can ignite gasoline vapors.
- Inspect belts regularly for cracks, uneven wear, or missing rubber.
- Check the mower deck and frame for signs of wear on pulleys and bearings. Friction marks or rubbing may indicate a mechanical issue that could lead to a fire—address these immediately.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for lubricating grease zerks. Some may require daily lubrication depending on how often the mower is used.

### FIRE HAZARDS

Lawnmowers can pose serious fire risks due to heat, debris, fuel, and batteries. Key hazards include:

- **Dry Grass & Debris:** Grass clippings can build up around the engine or exhaust, igniting from heat or sparks caused by hitting rocks or debris.
- **Hot Exhaust Systems:** Exhaust parts stay hot long after use and can ignite nearby grass or debris, especially if the mower is stored without cooling down.
- **Fuel Risks:** Leaks, spills, or refueling near hot engines can easily cause fires. Always refuel only when the engine is cool and off.
- **Battery Hazards:** Lithium-ion batteries in electric mowers can overheat or catch fire, especially if damaged, overcharged, or improperly stored.
- **Poor Maintenance:** Uncut long grass, dirty mower decks, and failure to clean or inspect equipment increase fire risk.



# SPRING SAFETY

## POWER EQUIPMENT

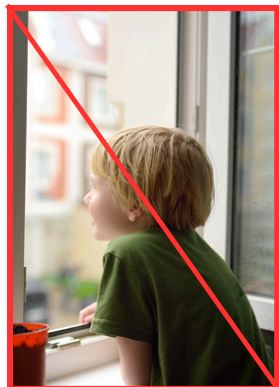
As yard work ramps up, it's important to stay safe while using power tools like chainsaws, trimmers, and edgers. Regular maintenance and following the manufacturer's instructions are key to preventing accidents. Also, never leave running equipment unattended. A few simple precautions can make your outdoor tasks both safe and efficient.

- Refuel carefully—avoid spilling gasoline when fueling power equipment.
- Keep chainsaws, edgers, trimmers, and other yard tools in good working condition.
- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for operating power equipment.
- Wear safety goggles when mowing or using other power tools outdoors.
- Use hearing protection when operating loud machinery.
- Turn off the mower if you need to step away—never leave it running unattended.
- Do not consume alcohol while operating lawn or garden equipment.
- Never use gas-powered lawn equipment indoors due to carbon monoxide risks.



## WINDOW SAFETY

Window falls happen more often than many people realize. According to SafeKids Worldwide, an average of eight children under the age of five die each year, and more than 3,300 are injured due to falls from windows. To help prevent these tragic accidents, below are a few safety tips:



- Keep windows closed and locked when young children are nearby.
- If you need to open a window for fresh air, choose windows that are out of children's reach.
- Supervise children and keep playtime away from windows, balconies, and patio doors.
- Avoid placing furniture near windows, as children can climb on it to gain access.
- Discourage jumping on beds or furniture, which can lead to accidental falls.
- Never rely on insect screens — they're meant to keep bugs out, not children in.
- Install window safety devices, such as ASTM F2090-compliant window stops or guards with quick-release features for emergencies.
- Teach children how to use a window safely as an emergency exit, like during a fire.

## FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Every family should have an emergency plan in place in case of a natural disaster or other major emergency. Spring is a great time to review your plan with all household members. Your emergency plan should include:

- A communication plan so family members know how to reach each other and where to meet if it's safe to go outside
- A shelter-in-place plan in case outside air is contaminated — be prepared to seal windows, doors, and vents with plastic sheeting
- A getaway plan with multiple routes and destinations in different directions

Lastly, take a moment to check and update your first aid kits for both your home and vehicles to ensure everything is current and complete.

# CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FIRE SAFETY RECALLS

www.cpsc.gov ♦ 800.638.8270

## HUFFY CHILDREN'S RIDE-ON TONKA DUMP TRUCK

*Recall Due to Fire and Burn Hazards*

### HAZARD

The controller on the recalled ride-on dump trucks can overheat, posing a risk of burn hazards.



<b>REMEDY</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
Replacement	23,236

More information, click [RECALL](#)

## HONDA ACCESSORY HEATERS FOR SIDE-BY-SIDE VEHICLES

*Recall Due to Fire and Burn Hazards*

### HAZARD

The recalled accessory heaters can overheat and catch fire, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers.



<b>REMEDY</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
Free Repair	2,340

Additional information, click [RECALL](#)

## AIPER SEAGULL PRO CORDLESS ROBOTIC POOL VACUUM CLEANER

*Recall Due to Fire and Burn Hazards*

### HAZARD

The recalled pool vacuum has a large-current adapter that can overheat, posing fire and burn hazards.



<b>REMEDY</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
Replacement	32,660

Additional information, click [RECALL](#)

## FIVE BELOW ROOM2ROOM LED IRIDESCENT BEAR LIGHTS

*Recall Due to Fire and Burn Hazards*

### HAZARD

**INJURIES REPORTED**

The power switch on the USB cord can overheat and melt, posing fire and burn hazards.



<b>REMEDY</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
Refund	29,000

More information, click [RECALL](#)

## TOREX UTV RIDE-ON TOYS

*Recall Due to Fire Hazards*

*Sold Exclusively at Walmart*

### HAZARD

The recalled ride-on toys can overheat due to improper wiring, posing a fire hazard.

### REMEDY

Consumers should immediately stop using the UTVs and contact Huffy Corporation to schedule a free repair.

<b>UNITS</b>
24,700



**INJURIES REPORTED**

Additional information, click [RECALL](#)