**Tractor Mower Safety**

**Hand Signals**
- Use when noise or distance does not allow normal voice communication.
  - Slow It Down - Decrease Speed
  - Raise Equipment
  - Move Towards Me
  - Stop
  - Start the Engine
  - Come to Me
  - Increase Speed
  - Move Out - Take Off
  - Stop the Engine
  - Lower Equipment

**Safety Guidelines**
- Securely fasten your seat belt if the tractor has a roll-over protective structure.
- Reduce speed when turning, crossing slopes or on rough/slick/muddy surfaces.
- Do not permit others to ride.
- When stopped, set brakes and use parking lock.
- Use caution at row ends, on roads and around trees.

**Thrown Object Hazards**
- Always be aware of the throwing capabilities of the mower; estimate how far and in what direction objects may be thrown.
- Walk areas where grass and weeds are high enough to hide debris; areas with high grass and weeds should be mowed at intermediate height(s).
- Equipment shields must remain in place and checked for tears/rips.

**Operating on Uneven Ground**
- If area is too sloped (greater than 3:1) or deemed too uneven to safely operate mower, use a weedeater or pushmower.
- Start and prepare the mower on even ground.
- Lock the differential for better traction on slopes and slippery places.
- Slow travel speed so you have time to see and react to hazards in your path.
- Be alert for holes and ditches covered by grass or debris – wheel may drop quickly.
- Drive up and down hill, not across.
- Do not stop when going up/down hill.

For more information on the Tractor Mower Safety course or other MO-LTAP courses, please contact:

**MISSOURI-LTAP**

Missouri Local Technical Assistance Program

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