



Close as a Blade

Most of the lawnmower accidents we see end up in the classic "ground meat" category. This one, I'm happy to announce, found it's way into the "five piggies still wiggling" section. Steel-toed boots saved this fella from having to purchase a brand new prosthetic foot. Here's the story behind the pictures:

With the weather turning nice and many of us spending more time working in the yard, I thought I'd share an experience I had yesterday. About 20 years ago, a guy I worked with ran over his foot with a lawnmower. Luckily he had on steel-toed boots and it saved his foot. I remember thinking at the time, "What kind of idiot runs over his foot with a lawnmower?"

Last night I found out. I was mowing the backyard grass after a full day of working in the yard. As I was pulling the lawnmower back toward me, I tripped over a piece of wood lying next to the grass. They say that when things like this happen they happen in slow motion. This was not the case last night. Before I realized what was happening I was lying on the ground and had pulled the lawnmower onto my foot. The mower hit my foot with such force that it killed the engine.

As I pulled my foot from under the mower I expected to see a bloody mess. Luckily I had been wearing steel-toed boots because I was trimming some

large branches on my trees. When I looked at my boot the steel toe was gone and the boot was pretty chewed up. I was hesitant to remove my boot, not wanting to see the consequences of my lack of attention to my surroundings.

Through nothing more than luck and a bit of providence, the damage was limited to a destroyed boot, a swollen, black-and-blue toe (I think it's broken), and a new appreciation for wearing the proper safety equipment.

When I think of all of the times that I have mowed the lawn in tennis shoes, or worse yet, sandals, it makes me cringe! I finally did go back looking for the steel cap from the boot and found it under the mower. As you can see from the photos, the steel cap is split up the front. Just think, that could have been my toe.

So the next time you are going to do something as simple as mowing the lawn, take a second to be sure there are no hazards lying in wait and please wear the proper safety equipment. Thanks.>Author
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