



# Slope Mowing Safety

While slopes and hillsides add aesthetics and dimension to landscapes, they can be very hazardous to mow.

## Safe Mower Operation

- Read the operator's manual.
- If the mower has a roll-over protection system (ROPS), a safety belt is mandatory and should always be worn during operation.
- Cease operation if tractor stability is questionable, or if you are unsure of the ability to continue safely.
- Know how each attachment affects the stability of the tractor.
- Utilize counter-weighting systems to increase the balance of weight being transferred to the tractor/mower when using front and rear mounting attachments.
- Obey mowing angle limitations based on your specific tractor's capability both with and without attached equipment options.

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## How to Get Started

United Heartland Loss Control can direct you to additional outdoor work safety resources. Contact your United Heartland Loss Control representative to discuss your current needs or explore the United Heartland Toolbox at [UnitedHeartland.com/united-heartland-toolbox/](https://www.united-heartland.com/united-heartland-toolbox/) to find more loss control resources.

## Operating on Slopes

If your mower is not capable of safely mowing a slope, it is always better to mow the slope with other equipment, such as a grass trimmer. Spending an hour using a trimmer to mow the slope is better than risking the potentially fatal incidents that can occur when operating a mower on a slope.

If your mower is capable of properly mowing a slope, loss-of-control and tip-over incidents can be prevented through the use of safe work practices, such as:

- Be familiar with the emergency parking brake, along with the tractor controls and their functions.
- Use low range when operating on slopes greater than 15 degrees.
- Never shift between high and low range while on a slope. Always move the machine to level ground and place the selector lever in park before shifting range.
- Do not drive where the machine could lose traction or tip over. Variables such as wet surfaces and loose ground increase the hazard level.
- Keep alert for hidden hazards on the terrain.
- Stay away from drop-offs, ditches and embankments.
- Pulling loads on hills decreases safety. It is the responsibility of the owner/operator to determine loads that can safely be controlled on slopes.
- Transport the machine with the attachment lowered or close to the ground to improve stability.
- Drive in an up and down direction while operating on slopes.
- If turning is necessary while driving across slopes, reduce speed and turn slowly in the downhill direction.
- Ensure a sufficient supply of fuel for continuous operation. A minimum of one-half tank of fuel is recommended.

