

Lawn Mower Dangers

It's so routine that you may not think you could get hurt mowing your lawn. But it happens and Bob Litz will tell you the injuries can be serious.

"It was over in a second and I had been on that wall literally a 100 times probably and it was just over in a second...before I knew it."

Week after week Bob Litz mowed around that retaining wall and never thought it would get the best of him.

"My choices were to get off in mid-air and land on the blade or ride it down and try to get off and at that point I had chose to ride it down, but the impact of hitting the sidewalk and everything, mower landed on me and I threw it off and shattered my scapula."

The bone in his shoulder was shattered into tiny pieces and doctors told him surgery wasn't an option. But because Litz is so physically fit, his muscle encased it and a year later, the bone is healed.



"We definitely see an increase in lawn mower injuries," says Dr. Eric Watson with Orthopedic Institute.

"Obviously people are out mowing their lawn and it's not just the push mowers, it's the riding mowers, you see all kinds of crazy things that can happen to people."

Watson says lawn mowers can cause horrible injuries.

"Most of the time people reach under the lawn mower because there is a stick stuck and they pull back and they're missing a couple of fingers, or the toes get rolled over."

Watson says if you respect the machinery, most injuries can be prevented.

"Most of the people - they have a sense of humor about it - once the acute injury settles down - that's on the stupidest things I've ever done...you see that a lot."

Litz says he now uses a push mower around his retaining walls because he knows his brush with the riding mower could have been even more serious.

"You don't think about it, it's so routine," says Litz. "Such an average every day thing that you take it for granted - haven't been hurt since."