YARDWORK SAFETY TIPS BY: Melissa Jeremiah, RN Director of Hoosier Uplands Home Health and Hospice

Up until the summer of 1999, I had not given much thought to yardwork safety. Yet, since that time I think of it often. This was the summer that my Dad's cousin was killed, while mowing his yard. Who would of thought that mowing your yard could result in your death?!? Hopefully, after reading these safety tips, everyone will think of safety before starting out on their yardwork.

Lawnmower/Weedeater Safety:

- #1 Never wear headphones, especially if you are mowing or weedeating by a road.
- #2 Make sure that all foreign objects are picked up, so that you do not run over these items.
- #3 Never mow up a steep embankment. It is actually safer to weedeat all embankments.
- #4 Never attempt to perform any mechanical work on a mower when the mower or weedeater is on.
- #5 Always wear good, sturdy shoes when mowing your yard or weedeating.
- #6 Wear safety glasses, if you are going to be using a weedeater.
- **#7** Read the safety instructions that came with your lawnmower/weedeater.
- #8 Speak to your children about lawnmower/weedeater safety, if they are going to be mowing/weedeating or outside when you are mowing/weedeating.

Lawnwork Safety:

- #1 If you have an allergy to bees, you should speak with your family physician to see if you should carry an epi-pen.
- #2 Always wear sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat and a thin long-sleeved shirt is also a good idea.
- #3 Have water or a sportsdrink with you. Alcoholic beverages and yardwork do not mix.
- #4 Remember that lawnwork is physical activity. If you have a health condition that restricts your activity level, talk to your family doctor before doing lawnwork.