**RoSPA CASE STUDY – PHOTOS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**

**Brian, 50, is a sales manager for a printer and photocopier company. He lives near Stansted with partner Rachel, 42, a personal assistant. He says:**

It was a warm Sunday and as I was walking to and fro with my Flymo lawnmower, I stepped backwards and my foot caught on the stairs of my grandson’s trampoline. Earlier I’d spilt some water from a paddling pool onto that patch of grass. I’m not sure if my sliders slipped on that water and contributed to what happened, but next thing I’m falling backwards. Rather than letting go of the handle to turn off the engine, I grabbed it tighter to try and steady myself and brought the lawnmower towards me.

I felt a searing heat in my right foot and knew straight away that I’d lopped off some toes. Rachel came running into the garden, she saw the blood and grabbed a tea-towel to staunch the flow from my foot and then retrieved the two severed toes and put them in a glass of ice.

An ambulance arrived, the paramedics gave me morphine, put me on a drip and within the hour I was in hospital. I assumed that the doctors would be able to sew my toes back on but after two lots of surgery, sadly, two of my toes are gone forever. The blade also went right through to the bone on my big toe but that was saved.

I was in hospital for six days in order to be monitored and make sure the wound was not infected. After that, I had to wear a protective boot for several weeks. Work-wise, I’ve been able to do bits from home but I work on commission and as I’ve not been able to drive to appointments, I’ve lost a few thousand pounds in the time I’ve been injured. I’m hoping to get back to work very soon.

**ends**