

**LX172, LX176,  
LX178, and LX188  
Lawn Tractors**  
(Serial No. 040001— )

**John Deere Horicon Works**  
**OMM115211 Issue H2**  
**(This manual replaces OMM115211 H1.)**

LITHO IN U.S.A.  
ENGLISH

# Introduction

THANK YOU for purchasing a John Deere product.

READ THIS MANUAL carefully to learn how to operate and service your machine correctly. Failure to do so could result in personal injury or equipment damage.

THIS MANUAL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED a permanent part of your machine and should remain with the machine when you sell it.

MEASUREMENTS in this manual are given in both metric and customary U.S. unit equivalents. Use only correct replacement parts and fasteners. metric and inch fasteners may require a specific metric or inch wrench.

RIGHT-HAND AND LEFT-HAND sides are determined by facing in the direction of forward travel.

WRITE PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS (P.I.N.) in the Specifications section. Accurately record all the numbers to help in tracing the machine should it be stolen. Your dealer also needs these numbers when you order parts. If this manual is kept on the machine, also file the identification numbers in a secure place off the machine.

WARRANTY is provided as part of John Deere's support program for customers who operate and maintain their equipment as described in this manual. The warranty is explained on the warranty certificate which you should have received from your dealer.

This warranty provides you the assurance that John Deere will back its products where defects appear within the warranty period. In some circumstances, John Deere also provides field improvements, often without charge to the customer, even if the product is out of warranty. Should the equipment be abused, or modified to change its performance beyond the original factory specifications, the warranty will become void and field improvements may be denied. Setting fuel delivery above specifications or otherwise overpowering machines will result in such action.

TIRE WARRANTY—John Deere warranty applies for tires available through the John Deere parts system. For tires not available through the John Deere parts system, the tire manufacturer's warranty applicable to your machine may not apply outside the U.S. (See your John Deere dealer for specific information).



M72170  
-UN-24-JUL90

MX,IFC,115211 -19-29JUL92

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*All information, illustrations and specifications in this manual are based on the latest information available at the time of publication. The right is reserved to make changes at any time without notice.*

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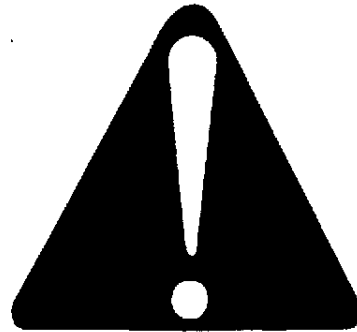
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# Safety

## RECOGNIZE SAFETY INFORMATION

This is the safety-alert symbol. When you see this symbol on your machine or in this manual, be alert to the potential for personal injury.

Follow recommended precautions and safe operating practices.



DX,ALERT -19-04JUN90

T81389 -UN-07DEC68

## UNDERSTAND SIGNAL WORDS

A signal word—DANGER, WARNING, or CAUTION—is used with the safety-alert symbol. DANGER identifies the most serious hazards.

DANGER or WARNING safety signs are located near specific hazards. General precautions are listed on CAUTION safety signs. CAUTION also calls attention to safety messages in this manual.



DX,SIGNAL -19-09JAN92

TS187 -19-30SEP88

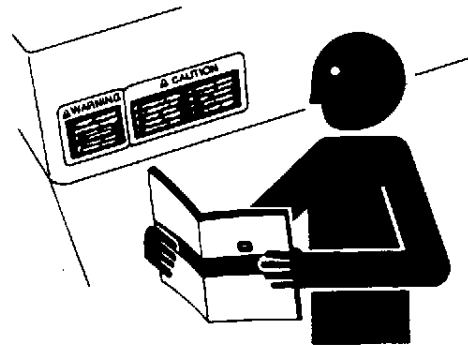
## FOLLOW SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Carefully read all safety messages in this manual and on your machine safety signs. Keep safety signs in good condition. Replace missing or damaged safety signs. Be sure new equipment components and repair parts include the current safety signs. Replacement safety signs are available from your John Deere dealer.

Learn how to operate the machine and how to use controls properly. Do not let anyone operate without instruction.

Keep your machine in proper working condition. Unauthorized modifications to the machine may impair the function and/or safety and affect machine life.

If you do not understand any part of this manual and need assistance, contact your John Deere dealer.



DX,READ -19-04JUN90

TS201 -UN-23AUG88



## OPEI CERTIFICATION

This OPEI Label on your mower indicates that this model has been certified by an independent laboratory for compliance with American National Standard B-71.1-1990, "Safety Specifications" for Power Lawn Mowers, Lawn and Garden Tractors, and Lawn Tractors.

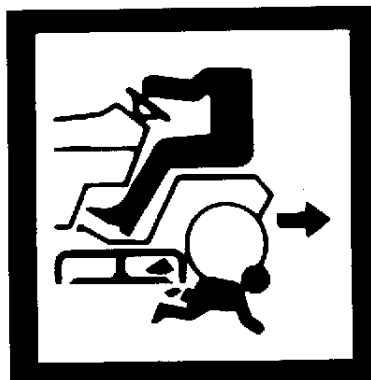
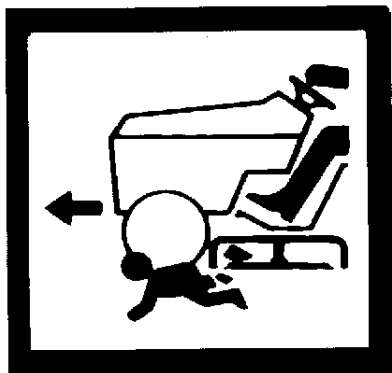


MX.CERT1 -19-29JUL92

M47634 -19-13MAY92



## OPERATE MOWER SAFELY



MT1458  
-UN-13MAY92

### PROTECT CHILDREN:

- Tragic accidents can occur if you are not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to machines and mowing activity. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.
- Keep children in the house under watchful care of a responsible adult when you are operating the mower.
- Turn machine off if children enter the mowing area. Take children out of the area before you operate.
- Use extra care—**BE ALERT FOR CHILDREN**—when you come to blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may block your vision.
- **DO NOT** let children or untrained person operate tractor.
- **NEVER** carry children. **DO NOT** let children ride on tractor, or any attachment. Don't tow children in cart or trailer.

### ROTATING BLADES CAN CUT OFF ARMS OR LEGS.

### DO NOT MOW IN REVERSE UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

### TO HELP PREVENT SERIOUS OR FATAL ACCIDENTS:

#### BACK VERY CAREFULLY:

- **FIRST: DISENGAGE** the mower.
- **THEN LOOK CAREFULLY** over the entire area behind the tractor.
- **LOOK DOWN AND BEHIND** before and while backing.
- **LOOK ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN.**

#### DRIVE FORWARD VERY CAREFULLY:

- People, **ESPECIALLY CHILDREN**, can move quickly into the mowing area before you know it.
- **BE ALERT AT ALL TIMES WHEN YOU DRIVE FORWARD.**

MX,SAJA,C -19-15JUN92



## OPERATE TRACTOR SAFELY

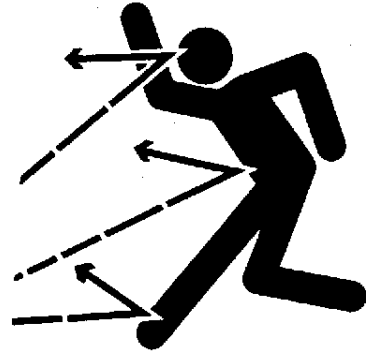
Check ground conditions:

- Clear mowing area of objects that might be thrown.
- Keep people and pets out of mowing area.
- Study mowing area. Set up safe mowing pattern. DO NOT mow under conditions where traction or stability is doubtful.
- First, test drive area with PTO OFF and mower lowered. Slow down when you travel over rough ground.

Keep tractor and attachments properly maintained and in good working order. Keep all shields and guards in place.

NEVER operate tractor or attachments when you are tired or ill.

Try to do most of your tractor work during daylight hours.



M41423 -UN-30AUG88

MX,SAFM,A1 -19-29JUL92



## AVOID TIPPING

Do not drive where machine could slip or tip.

Stay alert for holes, rocks, and roots in the terrain, and other hidden hazards. Keep away from drop-offs.

Slow down before you make a sharp turn.

Use care when pulling loads or using heavy equipment:

- Use only approved drawbar hitch points.
- Limit loads to those you can safely control.
- Use counterweights or wheel weights when suggested in this operator's manual.

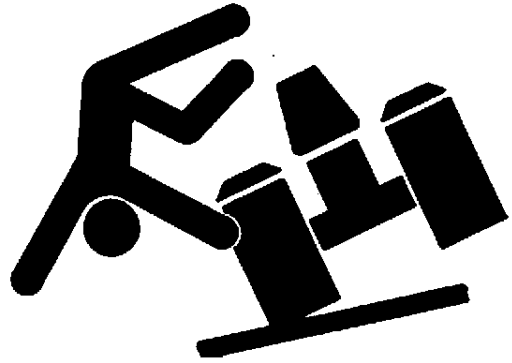
Reduce speed and exercise extreme caution on slopes and in sharp turns to prevent tipping or loss of control. Be especially cautious when changing direction on slopes.

Drive and mow up and down a hill—not across.

Do not stop or start suddenly when going uphill or downhill.

If machine stops going up hill:

- STOP PTO.
- Back down slowly.



M41275 -UN-06SEP88

MX,SAFM,B -19-29JUL92

## PARK TRACTOR SAFELY

STOP tractor.

Move shift lever to N (NEUTRAL) position.

Disengage PTO.

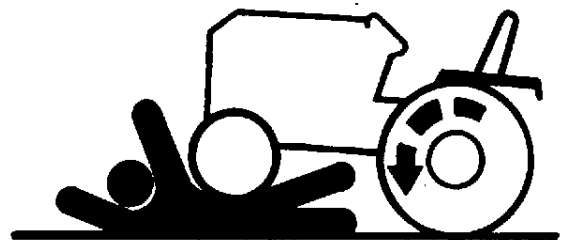
Lower equipment to the ground.

Engage park brake.

STOP engine.

Remove key.

Before you leave operator's seat, wait for engine and attachment parts to STOP moving.



M41273 -UN-06SEP88

MX,SAFM,C -19-29JUL92



## KEEP RIDERS OFF MACHINE

Only allow the operator on the machine. Keep riders off.

Riders on machine are subject to injury such as being struck by foreign objects and being thrown off of the machine. Riders also obstruct the operator's view resulting in the machine being operated in an unsafe manner.



DX,SAFM,RIDER -19-09SEP91

M71334 -UN-02JUL91

## HANDLE FUEL SAFELY—AVOID FIRES

Handle fuel with care, it is highly flammable.

DO NOT refuel machine:

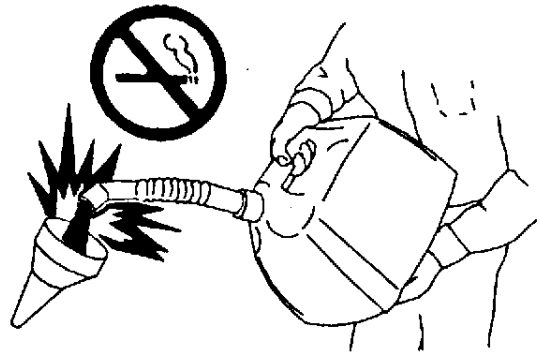
- While you smoke.
- When machine is near open flame or sparks.
- When engine is running. STOP engine.

Fill fuel tank outdoors.

Help prevent fires:

- Clean oil, grease and dirt from machine.
- Clean up spilled fuel immediately.

Do not store machine with fuel in tank in a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark.



MX,FIRE,5 -19-29JUL92

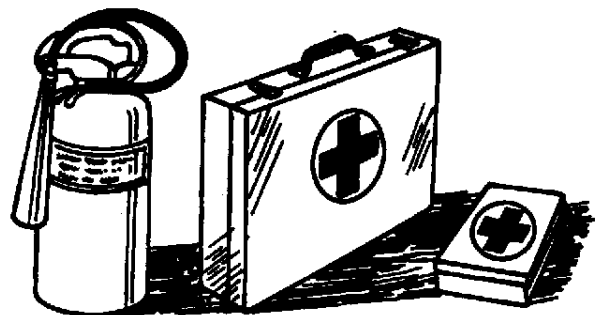
M73115 -UN-09MAR90

## PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

Be prepared if a fire starts.

Keep a first aid kit and fire extinguisher handy.

Keep emergency numbers for doctors, ambulance service, hospital, and fire department near your telephone.



DX,FIRE2 -19-04JUN90

TS291 -UN-23AUG88



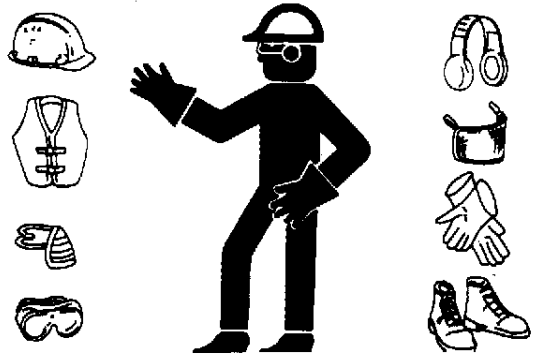
## WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Wear close fitting clothing and safety equipment appropriate to the job.

Prolonged exposure to loud noise can cause impairment or loss of hearing.

Wear a suitable hearing protective device such as earmuffs or earplugs to protect against objectionable or uncomfortable loud noises.

Operating equipment safely requires the full attention of the operator. Do not wear radio or music headphones while operating machine.



DX,WEAR -19-10SEP90

TS206 -UN-23AUG68

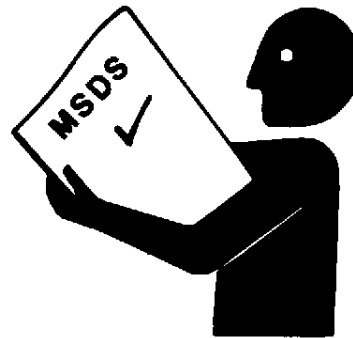
## HANDLE CHEMICAL PRODUCTS SAFELY

Direct exposure to hazardous chemicals can cause serious injury. Potentially hazardous chemicals used with John Deere equipment include such items as lubricants, coolants, paints, and adhesives.

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provides specific details on chemical products: physical and health hazards, safety procedures, and emergency response techniques.

Check the MSDS before you start any job using a hazardous chemical. That way you will know exactly what the risks are and how to do the job safely. Then follow procedures and recommended equipment.

(See your John Deere dealer for MSDS's on chemical products used with John Deere equipment.)



DX,MSDS,NA -19-15MAR91

TS1132 -UN-26NOV90



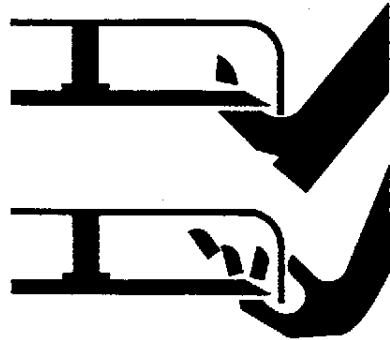
## AVOID INJURY FROM CONTACTING BLADES

Before you dismount to unplug or adjust mower:

- Put shift lever in N (NEUTRAL) position.
- STOP engine.
- LOCK park brake.
- Pull PTO lever fully rearward.
- Remove key.
- Wait for mower blades to STOP.

Keep hands, feet and clothing away from mower when engine is running.

STOP mower blades when you are not using mower.



MX,INJURY,2 -19-29JUL92

M41421 -UN-30AUG88

## PRACTICE SAFE MAINTENANCE

Understand service procedure before doing work. Keep area clean and dry.

Never lubricate or service machine while it is moving. Keep hands, feet, and clothing from power-driven parts. Disengage all power and operate controls to relieve pressure. Lower equipment to the ground. Stop the engine. Remove the key. Allow machine to cool.

Securely support any machine elements that must be raised for service work.

Keep all parts in good condition and properly installed. Fix damage immediately. Replace worn or broken parts. Remove any buildup of grease, oil, or debris.

Disconnect battery ground cable (-) before making adjustments on electrical systems or welding on machine.



DX,SERV -19-04JUN90

TS218 -UN-23AUG88



## SERVICE COOLING SYSTEM SAFELY

Explosive release of fluids from pressurized cooling system can cause serious burns.

Shut off engine. Only remove filler cap when cool enough to touch with bare hands. Slowly loosen cap to first stop to relieve pressure before removing completely.



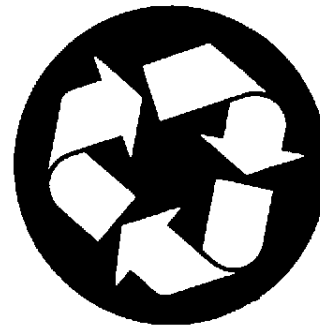
DX,RCAP -19-04JUN90

TS281 -UN-23AUG68

## WASTE PRODUCT SAFETY

Waste products, such as, used oil, fuel, coolant, brake fluid, and batteries, can harm the environment and people. See your local Recycling Center or John Deere dealer to learn how to recycle or get rid of waste products.

Don't use beverage containers for waste fluids—someone may drink from them.



MX,SAIR,I -19-29JUL92

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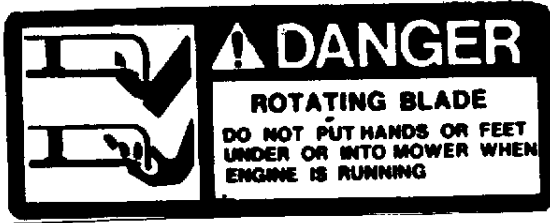
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READ SAFETY SIGNS



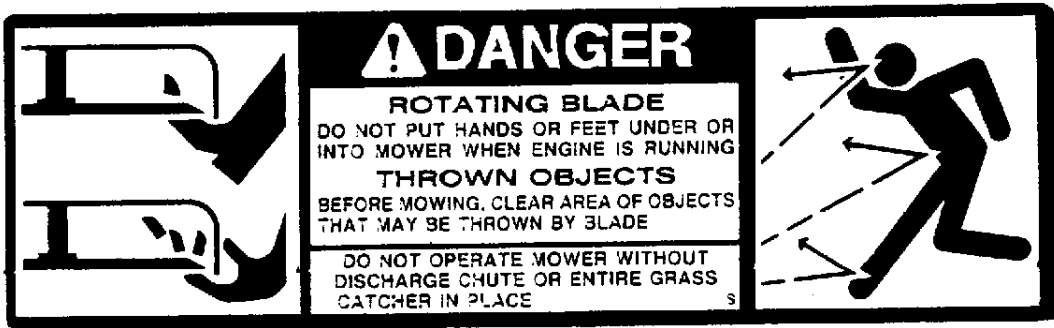
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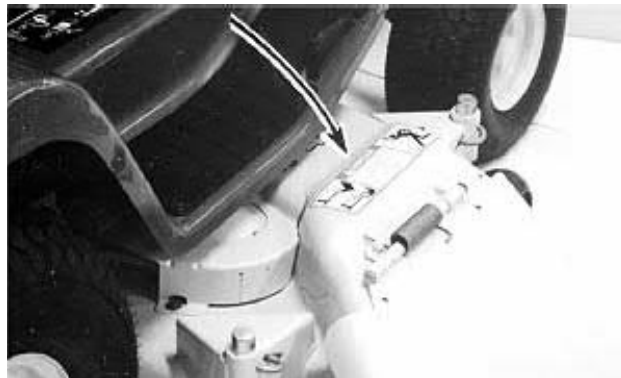
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