

**JOHN DEERE**  
**WORLDWIDE COMMERCIAL & CONSUMER**  
**EQUIPMENT DIVISION**

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**Walk-Behind Brush Cutter**  
**BC1324E**

OMM161991 E0

**OPERATOR'S MANUAL**



**JOHN DEERE**

North American Version  
Litho in U.S.A.

# INTRODUCTION

**⚠ WARNING:** The Engine Exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

California Proposition 65 Warning

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## Introduction

### Thank You for Purchasing a John Deere Product

We appreciate having you as a customer and wish you many years of safe and satisfied use of your machine.

### Using Your Operator Manual

This manual is an important part of your machine and should remain with the machine when you sell it.

Reading your operator's manual will help you and others avoid personal injury or damage to the machine. Information given in this manual will provide the operator with the safest and most effective use of the machine. Knowing how to operate this machine safely and correctly will allow you to train others who may operate this machine.

This manual and safety signs on your machine may also be available in other languages (see your authorized dealer to order).

Sections in your operator's manual are placed in a specific order to help you understand all the safety messages and learn the controls so you can operate this machine safely. You can also use this manual to answer any specific operating or servicing questions.

The machine shown in this manual may differ slightly from your machine, but will be similar enough to help you understand our instructions.

RIGHT-HAND and LEFT-HAND sides are determined by facing in the direction the machine will travel when going forward. When you see a broken line (-----), the item referred to is hidden from view.

### Special Messages

Your manual contains special messages to bring attention to potential safety concerns, machine damage as well as helpful operating and servicing information. Please read all the information carefully to avoid injury and machine damage.



**CAUTION:** Avoid injury! This symbol and text highlight potential hazards or death to the operator or bystanders that may occur if the hazards or procedures are ignored.

**IMPORTANT:** Avoid damage! This text is used to tell the operator of actions or conditions that might result in damage to the machine.

**NOTE:** General information is given throughout the manual that may help the operator in the operation or service of the machine.

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

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# PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

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## Product Identification

### Record Identification Numbers

BC1324E PIN (001001-)

If you need to contact an Authorized Service Center for information on servicing, always provide the product model and identification numbers.

You will need to locate the model and serial number for the machine and for the engine of your machine and record the information in the spaces provided below.

DATE OF PURCHASE:

\_\_\_\_\_

DEALER NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

DEALER PHONE:

\_\_\_\_\_

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:

\_\_\_\_\_

ENGINE SERIAL NUMBER:

\_\_\_\_\_

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# SAFETY LABELS

## Safety Labels



### Understanding The Machine Safety Labels

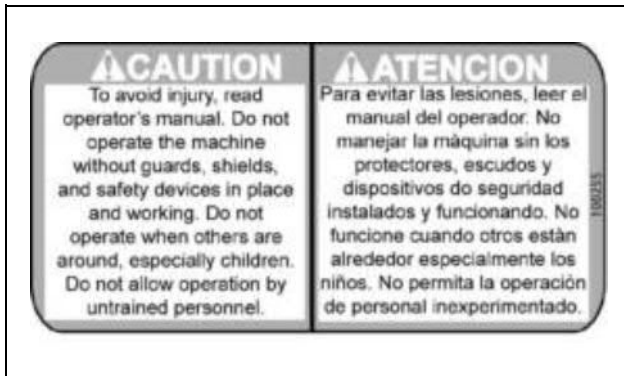
The machine safety labels shown in this section are placed in important areas on your machine to draw attention to potential safety hazards.

On your machine safety labels, the words DANGER, WARNING, and CAUTION are used with this safety-alert symbol. DANGER identifies the most serious hazards.

The operator's manual also explains any potential safety hazards whenever necessary in special safety messages that are identified with the word, CAUTION, and the safety-alert symbol.

There can be additional safety information contained on parts and components sourced from suppliers that is not reproduced in this operator's manual.

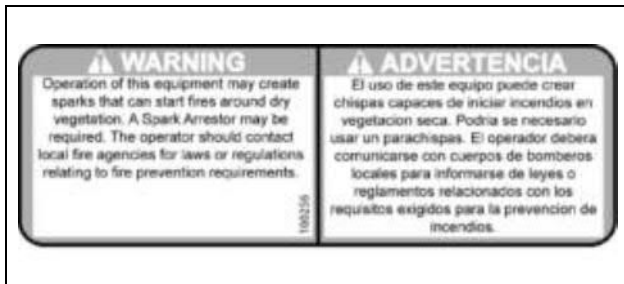
### CAUTION - 100255



100255

To avoid injury, read operator's manual. Do not operate the machine without guards, shields, and safety devices in place and working. Do not operate when others are around, especially children. Do not allow operation by untrained personnel.

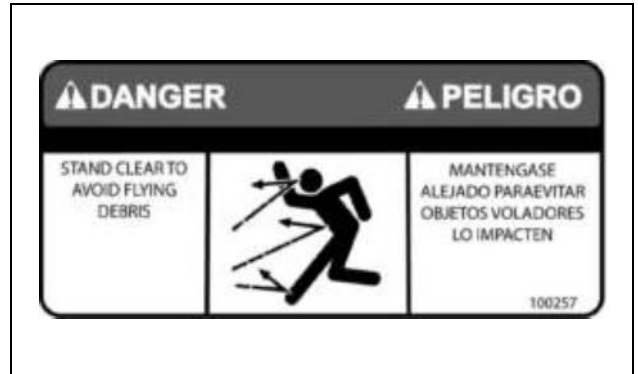
### WARNING - 100256



100256

Operation of this equipment may create sparks that can start fires around dry vegetation. A Spark Arrestor may be required. The operator should contact local fire agencies for laws and regulations relating to fire prevention requirements.

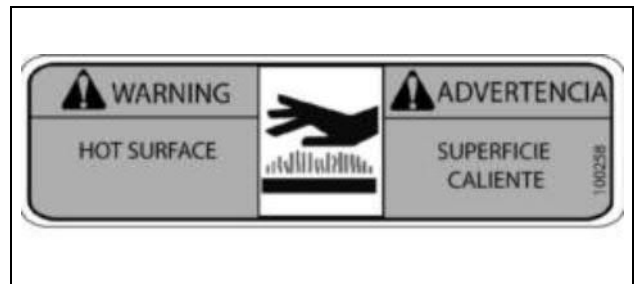
### DANGER - 100257



100257

STAND CLEAR TO AVOID FLYING DEBRIS

### WARNING - 100258



100258

HOT SURFACE

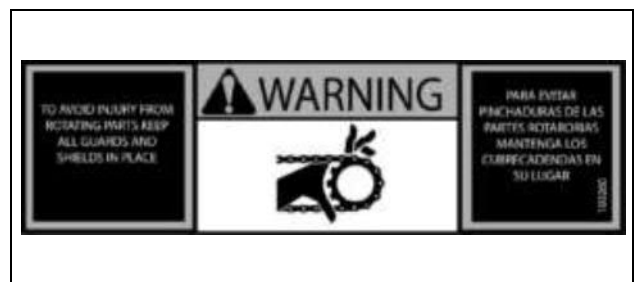
### DANGER - 100259



100259

TO AVOID INJURY FROM ROTATING BLADES, STAY CLEAR OF DECK EDGE

### WARNING - 100260



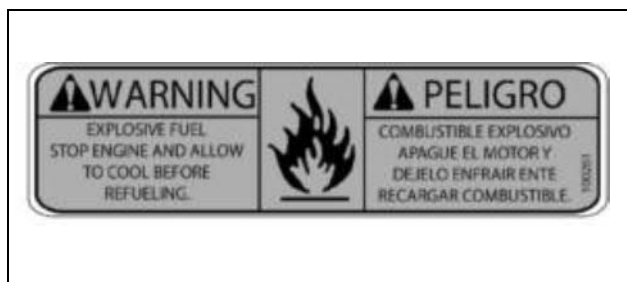
100260

TO AVOID INJURY FROM ROTATING PARTS KEEP ALL GUARDS AND

# SAFETY

SHIELDS IN PLACE

## WARNING - 100261



100261

EXPLOSIVE FUEL STOP ENGINE AND ALLOW TO COOL BEFORE REFUELING.

### Certification

Your product has been certified for compliance with American National Standards Institute B-71.4, Safety Specifications for Commercial Turf care Equipment.

### Canadian Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Compliance

This spark ignition system complies with Canadian ICES-002.

## Safety

### Operator Training Required

- Read the operator's manual and other training material. If the operator or mechanic cannot read English, it is the owner's responsibility to explain this material to them. This publication is available in other languages.
- Become familiar with the safe operation of the equipment, operator controls, and safety signs.
- All operators and mechanics should be trained. The owner of the machine is responsible for training the users.
- Never let children or untrained people operate or service the equipment. Local regulations may restrict the age of the operator.
- The owner/user can prevent and is responsible for accidents or injuries occurring to themselves, other people, or property.
- Operate the machine in an open, unobstructed area under the direction of an experienced operator.

### Preparation

- Evaluate the terrain to determine what accessories and attachments are needed to properly and safely perform the job. Only use accessories and attachments approved by the manufacturer.
- Wear appropriate clothing including hard hat, safety glasses and hearing protection. Long hair, loose clothing or jewelry may get tangled in moving parts.
- Inspect the area where the equipment is to be used and remove all objects such as rocks, toys and wire that can present a hazard while using the machine.
- Use extra care when handling gasoline and other fuels. They are flammable and vapors are explosive.
  - a. Use only an approved container.

b. Never remove gas cap or add fuel when engine is running. Do not smoke.

c. Never refuel or drain the machine indoors.

- Check that the operator's presence controls (if equipped), safety switches and shields are attached and functioning properly. Do not operate unless they are functioning properly.

### Operating Safely

- Never run an engine in an enclosed area where dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can collect.
- Only operate in good light, keeping away from holes and hidden hazards.
- Be sure all drives are disengaged before starting engine. Only start engine from the operator's position.
- Be sure of your footing while using pedestrian-controlled equipment, especially when backing up. Walk, don't run. Never operate on wet grass. Reduced footing could cause slipping.
- Slow down and use extra care on hillsides. Be sure to travel in the recommended direction on hillsides. For this machine, drive across hillsides, not up and down. Turf conditions can affect the machine's stability. Use caution while operating near drop-offs.
- Slow down and use caution when making turns and when changing directions on slopes.
- Never operate with guards not securely in place. Be sure all interlocks are attached, adjusted properly, and functioning properly.
- Do not change the engine governor setting or overspeed the engine. Operating the engine at excessive speed can increase the hazard of personal injury.
- Stop on level ground, disengage drives, and shut off engine before leaving the operator's position for any reason including unclogging the deck or removing debris from machine.
- Stop equipment and inspect blades after striking objects or if an abnormal vibration occurs. Make necessary repairs before resuming operations.
- Keep hands and feet away from the cutting units.
- Look behind and down before backing up to be sure of a clear path.
- Never carry passengers and keep pets and bystanders away.
- Slow down and use caution when making turns and crossing roads and sidewalks. Stop blades if not mowing. Watch for traffic when operating near or crossing roadways.
- Do not operate the machine while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Use care when loading or unloading the machine into or off of a trailer or truck.
- Use care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure vision.
- Inspect machine before you operate. Be sure hardware is tight. Repair or replace damaged, badly worn, or missing parts. Be sure guards and shields are in good condition and fastened in place. Make any necessary adjustments before you operate.
- Before using, always visually inspect to see that the blades, blade bolts and the mower assembly are not worn and damaged. Replace worn and damaged blades and bolts in sets to preserve balance.
- Keep safety labels visible when installing accessories and attachments.
- Do not wear radio or music headphones. Safe service and operation require your full attention.

# SAFETY

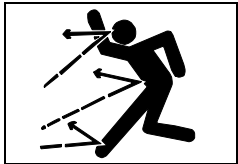
- Do not hang or secure any item to the control console. The operator's station should always remain unobstructed.
- Do not pull mower backwards while the blades are rotating.

## Using a Spark Arrestor

The engine in this machine is not equipped with a spark arrestor muffler. The California Public Resources Code, section 4442.5 provides as follows:

No person shall sell, offer for sale, lease, or rent to any person any internal combustion engine subject to Section 4442 or 4443, and not subject to Section 13005 of the Health and Safety Code, unless the person provides a written notice to the purchaser or bailee, at the time of sale or at the time of entering into the lease or rental contract, stating that it is a violation of Section 4442 or 4443 to use or operate the engine on any forest-covered, brush-covered, or grass-covered land unless the engine is equipped with a spark arrestor, as defined in Section 4442, maintained in effective working order or the engine is constructed, equipped, and maintained for the prevention of fire pursuant to Section 4443. Cal. Pub. Res. Code 4442.5.

Other states or jurisdictions may have similar laws. A spark arrestor for your machine may be available from your authorized dealer. An installed spark arrestor must be maintained in good working order by the operator.



## Checking Mowing Area

- Clear mowing area of objects that might be thrown. Keep people and pets out of mowing area.
- Low-hanging branches and similar obstacles can injure the operator or interfere with

mowing operation. Before mowing, identify potential obstacles such as low-hanging branches, and trim or remove those obstacles.

- Study mowing area. Set up a safe mowing pattern. Do not mow where traction or stability is doubtful.

## Parking Safely

1. Stop machine on a level surface, not on a slope.
2. Turn machine off and stop the engine.
3. Wait for engine and all moving parts to stop before you leave the operator's station.
4. Close fuel shut-off valve, if your machine is equipped.
5. Remove the spark plug wire (for gasoline engines) before servicing the machine.

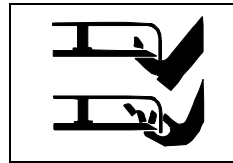
## Operating Safely on Slopes

- Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents which can result in severe injury. Operation on all slopes requires extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope, do not operate machine on it.
- Operate across the face of slopes, never up and down. Use extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Watch for holes, ruts, bumps, rocks or other hidden objects. Uneven terrain could cause a slip and fall accident. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
- Do not operate on wet grass or excessively steep slopes. Poor footing could cause a slip and fall accident.
- Do not operate near drop offs, ditches, or embankments. The operator could lose footing or balance.

## Rotating Blades are Dangerous - Protect Children and Prevent Accidents

### Protect Children:

- Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to lawn-mowing machines and mowing activity. Stay alert to the presence of children. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.
- Keep children indoors, out of the mowing area, and in the watchful eye of a responsible adult, other than the operator, when a mower is being operated.
- Be alert and turn mower off if a child enters the work area. They don't understand the dangers of rotating blades or the fact that the operator is unaware of their presence.



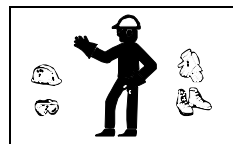
## Rotating Blades are Dangerous

### HELP PREVENT SERIOUS OR FATAL ACCIDENTS:

- Rotating blades can cut off arms and legs, and throw objects. Failure to observe safety instructions could result in serious injury or

death.

- Keep hands, feet and clothing away from mower deck when engine is running.
- Be alert at all times, drive forward carefully. People, especially children can move quickly into the mowing area before you know it.
- Do not mow in reverse.
- Shut off blades when you are not mowing.
- Park machine safely before leaving the operator station for any reason including emptying the catchers or unplugging the chute.



## Wear Appropriate Clothing

- Always wear eye protection when operating the machine.
- Wear close fitting clothing and safety equipment appropriate for the job.

• While operating this machine, always wear substantial footwear and long trousers. Do not operate the equipment when barefoot or wearing open sandals.

• Wear a suitable protective device such as earplugs. Loud noise can cause impairment or loss of hearing.



## Maintenance and Storage

- Never operate machine in a closed area where dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can collect.
- Turn machine off and wait for engine to stop, then disconnect spark plug (for gas engines).

Wait for all movement to stop before adjusting, cleaning or repairing.

- Clean grass and debris from cutting units, drives, mufflers, and engine to help prevent fires. Clean up oil or fuel spillage.
- Let engine cool before storing and do not store near flame.
- Shut off fuel while storing or transporting. Do not store fuel near flames or drain indoors.
- Park machine on level ground. Never allow untrained personnel to service machine. Understand service procedure before doing work.

# SAFETY

- Use jack stands or lock service latches to support components when required. Securely support any machine elements that must be raised for service work.
- Disconnect battery or remove spark plug (for gas engines) before making any repairs. Disconnect the negative terminal first and the positive last. Reconnect positive first and negative last.
- Use care when checking blades. Wrap the blades or wear gloves, and use caution when servicing them. Only replace blades. Never straighten or weld them.
- Keep hands, feet, clothing, jewelry and long hair away from moving parts. If possible, do not make adjustments with the engine running.
- Charge batteries in an open well ventilated area, away from spark and flames. Unplug charger before connecting or disconnecting from battery. Wear protective clothing and use insulated tools.
- Keep all parts in good working condition and all hardware tightened. Replace all worn or damaged decals.
- Keep all nuts and bolts tight, especially blade attachment bolts, to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.

## Prevent Fires

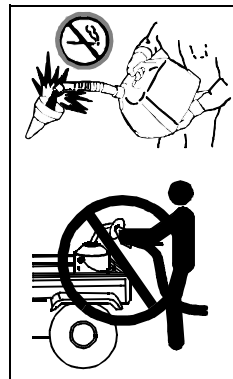
- Machine fires and structure fires can occur if a machine is stored before allowing it to cool, if debris is not removed from critical areas of the machine, or if machine is stored near combustible materials.
- Remove grass and debris completely from engine compartment and muffler area, and from on top of the mower deck, before and after operating machine, especially after mowing or mulching in dry conditions.
- Empty any grasscatcher bags or containers completely before storing.
- Always shut off fuel when storing or transporting machine, if the machine has a fuel shutoff.
- Do not store machine near an open flame or source of ignition, such as a water heater or furnace.
- Check fuel lines, tank, cap, and fittings frequently for cracks or leaks. Replace if necessary.



## Tire Safety

Explosive separation of a tire and rim parts can cause serious injury or death:

- Do not attempt to mount a tire without the proper equipment and experience to perform the job.
- Always maintain the correct tire pressure. Do not inflate the tires above the recommended pressure. Never weld or heat a wheel and tire assembly. The heat can cause an increase in air pressure resulting in a tire explosion. Welding can structurally weaken or deform the wheel.
- When inflating tires, use a clip-on chuck and extension hose long enough to allow you to stand to one side and NOT in front of or over the tire assembly.
- Check tires for low pressure, cuts, bubbles, damaged rims or missing lug bolts and nuts.
- Make sure all tires are inflated to the recommended pressure, especially when operating on slopes. Low pressure can cause machine to become unstable on slopes.



## Handling Fuel Safely

**To avoid personal injury or property damage, use extreme care in handling fuel. Fuel is extremely flammable and fuel vapors are explosive:**

- Extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and other sources of ignition.
- Use only an approved fuel container. Use only non-metal, portable fuel containers approved by the Underwriter's Laboratory (U.L.) or the American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM). If using a funnel, make sure it is plastic and has no screen or filter.
- Never remove the fuel tank cap or add fuel with the engine running. Allow engine to cool before refueling.
- Never add fuel to or drain fuel from the machine indoors. Move machine outdoors and provide adequate ventilation.
- Clean up spilled fuel immediately. If fuel is spilled on clothing, change clothing immediately. If fuel is spilled near machine, do not attempt to start the engine but move the machine away from the area of spillage. Avoid creating any source of ignition until fuel vapors have dissipated.
- Never store the machine or fuel container where there is an open flame, spark, or pilot light such as on a water heater or other appliance.
- Prevent fire and explosion caused by static electric discharge. Static electric discharge can ignite fuel vapors in an ungrounded fuel container.
- Never fill containers inside a vehicle or on a truck or trailer bed with a plastic liner. Always place containers on the ground away from your vehicle before fueling.
- Remove fuel-powered equipment from the truck or trailer and refuel it on the ground. If this is not possible, then refuel such equipment with a portable container, rather than from a fuel dispenser nozzle.
- Keep the nozzle in contact with the rim of the fuel tank or container opening at all times until the fueling is complete. Do not use a nozzle lock-open device.
- Never overfill fuel tank. Replace fuel tank cap and tighten securely.
- Replace all fuel container caps securely after use.
- For gasoline engines, do not use gas with methanol. Methanol is harmful to your health and to the environment.

## Handling Waste Product and Chemicals

Waste products, such as, used oil, fuel, coolant, brake fluid, and batteries, can harm the environment and people:

- Do not use beverage containers for waste fluids - someone may drink from them.
- See your local Recycling Center or authorized dealer to learn how to recycle or get rid of waste products.
- A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provides specific details on chemical products: physical and health hazards, safety procedures, and emergency response techniques. The seller of the chemical products used with your machine is responsible for providing the MSDS for that product.

# ASSEMBLY

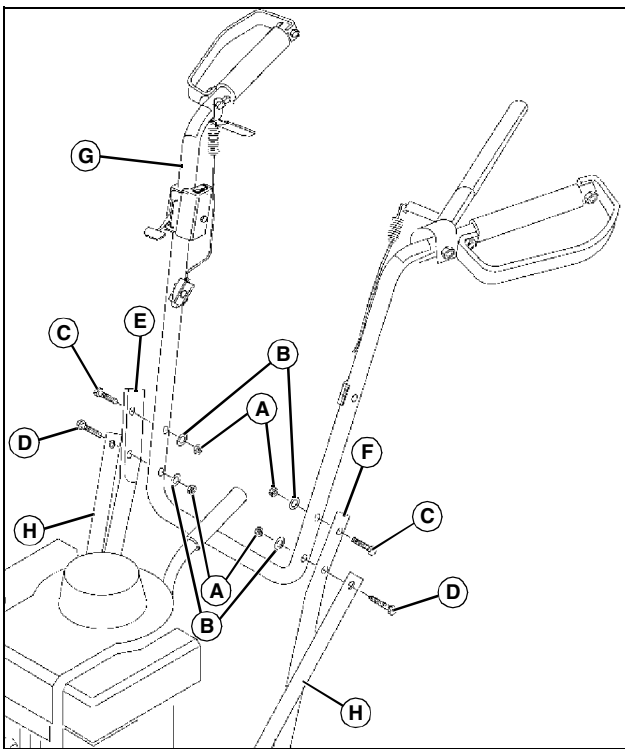
## Assembly

### Packing Checklist

Qty.	Description
1	Brush Cutter
1	Upper Handle Assembly
1	Guard Bar
4	Tie Strap

### Assembly

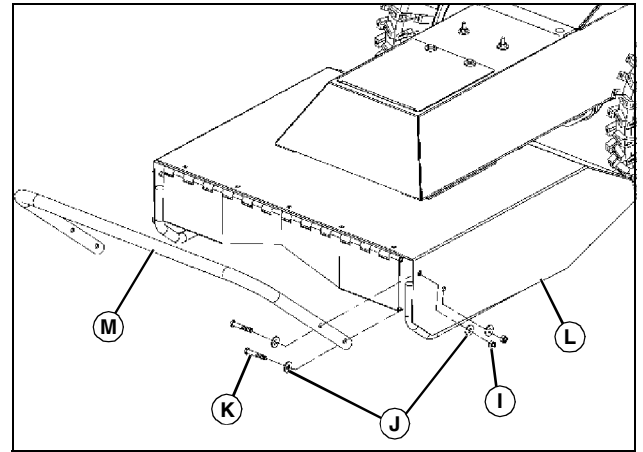
1. Remove assembly parts from packing carton and disconnect engine spark plug wire.



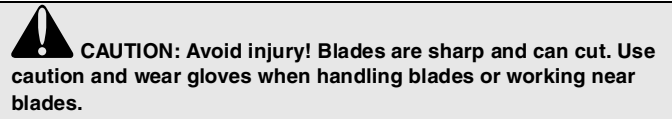
2. Remove four 5/16 in. locknuts (A) and four 5/16 in. washers (B) from two 5/16 x 2 in. cap screws (C) and two 5/16 x 1-3/4 in. cap screws (D) on lower handles (E) and (F).

3. Install upper handle (G) to lower handles (E) and (F) with upper hardware removed in step above. Tighten finger tight only at this time.

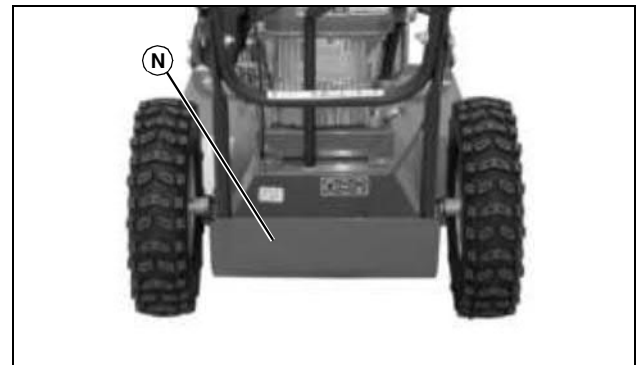
4. Tighten lower mounting hardware along with handle braces (H).



5. Remove 5/16 in. locknuts (I), 5/16 in. washers (J), 5/16 x 1-1/2 in. cap screws (K) from deck assembly (L).



6. Attach guard bar (M) to deck assembly with hardware just removed.



7. Secure the battery (not included) in the battery plate (N), by hooking one side of the rubber strap into the hole then stretch the strap across the top of the battery and hook the opposite side into the opposite hole on the battery plate. Make sure the battery will not move then connect positive and negative battery cables to battery terminals.

8. Connect spark plug wire.

### Check and Add Engine Oil

1. Remove dipstick and check engine oil level. (See Checking Engine Oil Level in the SERVICE section.)

2. Add oil as needed up to the FULL mark on the dipstick. Do not overfill.

### Fill Fuel Tank

Fill the fuel tank. (See Filling Fuel Tank in the SERVICE section.)

# ASSEMBLY

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## Check Tire Pressure



**CAUTION: Avoid injury! Explosive separation of tire and rim parts is possible when they are serviced incorrectly:**

- Do not attempt to mount a tire without the proper equipment and experience to perform the job.
- Do not inflate the tires above the recommended pressure.
- Do not weld or heat a wheel and tire assembly. Heat can cause an increase in air pressure resulting in an explosion. Welding can structurally weaken or deform the wheel.
- Do not stand in front or over the tire assembly when inflating. Use a clip-on chuck and extension hose long enough to allow you to stand to one side.

1. Check tires for damage.
2. Check tire pressure with an accurate gauge.
3. Add or remove air, if necessary.



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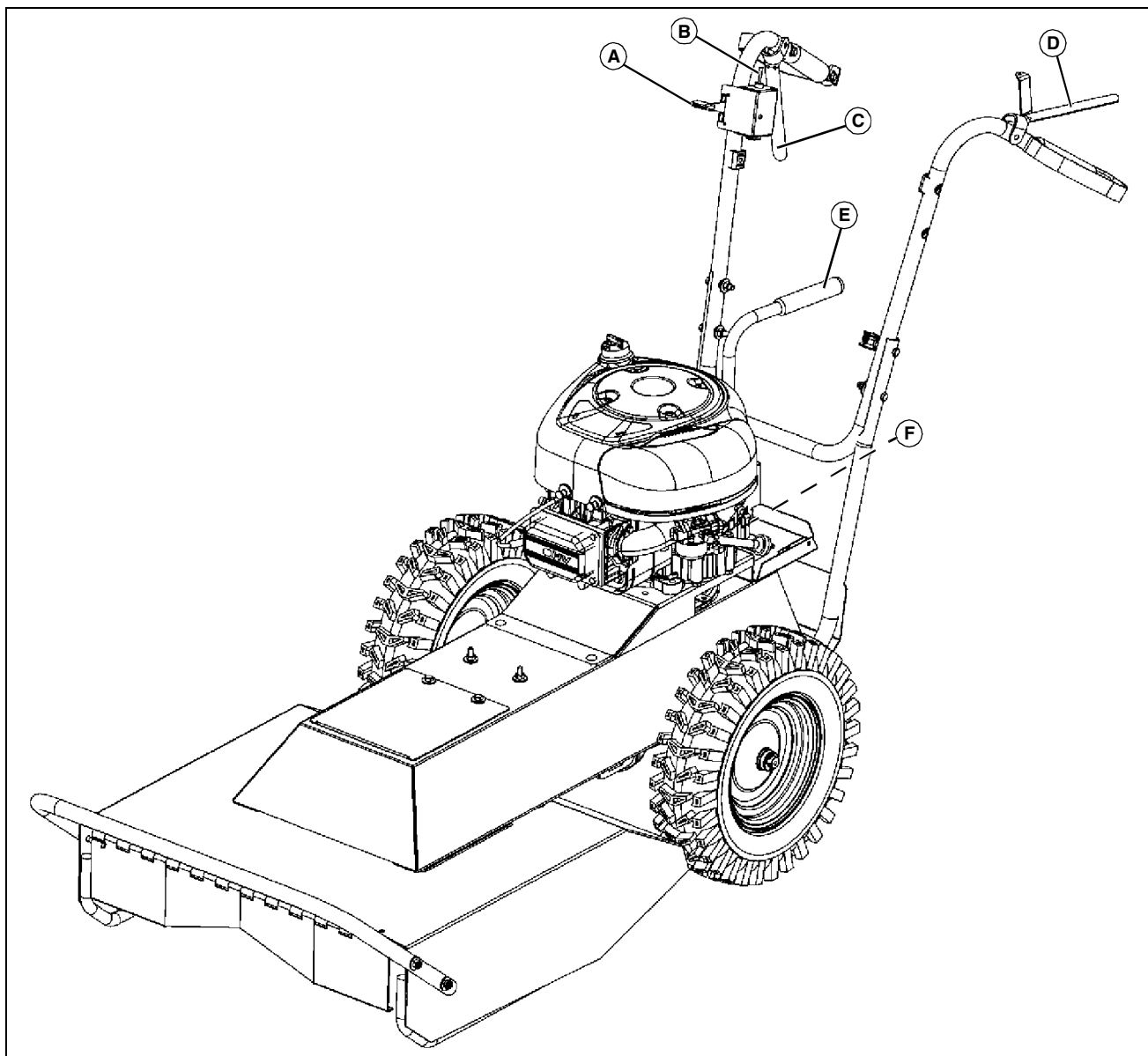
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**Thank you so much for reading**

# OPERATING CONTROLS

## Operating Controls

### Operator Station Controls and Features



MX43938a

- A- Throttle
- B- ON/OFF Switch
- C- Drive Clutch Lever
- D- Blade Clutch Lever
- E- Gear Shift Lever
- F- Choke

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