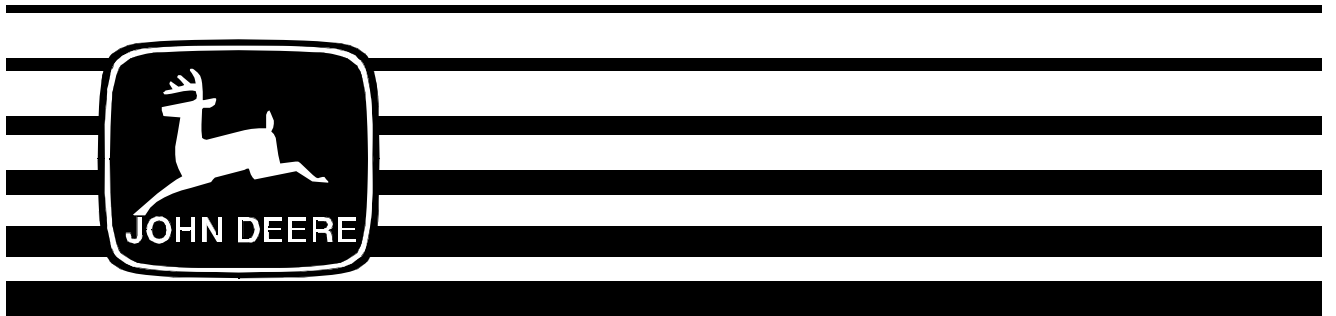


**GATOR®**  
**Diesel**  
**Utility Vehicle**

Serial No. (008807- )



**OPERATOR'S MANUAL**

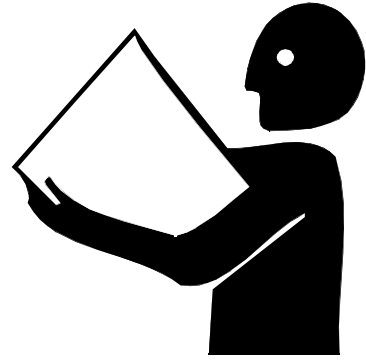
**John Deere**  
**Worldwide Commercial And**  
**Consumer Equipment Division**  
**OMM136975 A9**

**North American Version**  
**Litho in U.S.A.**  
**English**

# INTRODUCTION

**THANK YOU** for purchasing a John Deere product.

Read this manual and your attachment manuals thoroughly. Failure to do so could result in personal injury or equipment damage.



**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

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 metric units and their U.S. customary equivalents. 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 arrow (---->), it indicates the part it is pointing to is hidden.

Record identification numbers below. Be sure to record all the numbers to help in tracing the machine if it is stolen. You also need to give these numbers to your dealer when you order parts.

**DATE OF PURCHASE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**DEALER NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**DEALER PHONE:**

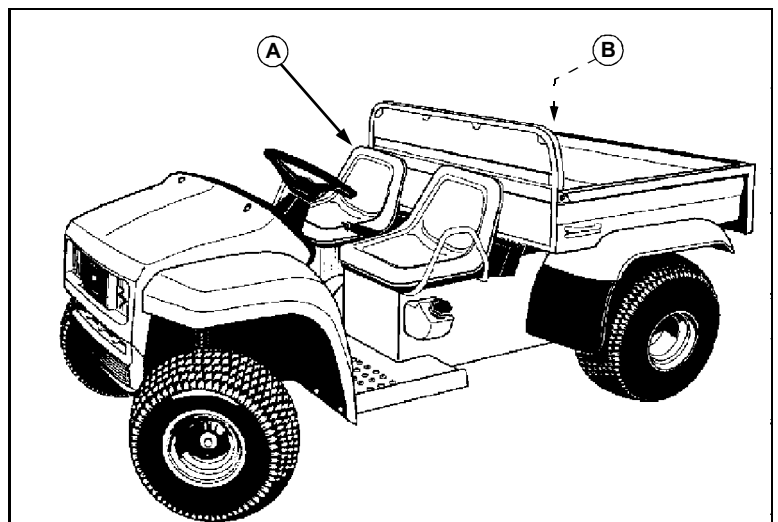
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**PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (A):**

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**ENGINE SERIAL NUMBER (B):**

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Horicon, WI

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# SAFETY SIGNS

## Safety-Alert Symbol

Read and recognize safety information. Be alert to the potential for personal injury when you see this safety-alert symbol.

On your vehicle safety labels, the words DANGER, WARNING, and CAUTION are used with this safety-alert symbol. DANGER identifies the most serious hazards. In this manual, the word CAUTION and this symbol call attention to safety messages.



## Machine Safety Labels

### WARNING

RIDERS CAN FALL OFF AND BE KILLED

- Maximum of one person to a seat
- No riders in box or anywhere else



### WARNING

YOUNG DRIVERS INCREASE CHANCE OF DEATH

- Young drivers may not be able to control vehicle
- No drivers younger than 16 years old

### CAUTION

Before leaving vehicle:

- Stop engine
- Set park brake
- Remove key

### WARNING

ROLLOVER OR FALLING OFF MAY CAUSE DEATH

- Read operator's manual.
- Drive very slowly when turning.
- Always use brakes going down a slope. Vehicle can take-off (freewheel) downhill.
- No loads heavier than 500 lbs (227 kg) in 4x2, 800 lbs (363 kg) in 6x4 and 1000 lbs (454 kg) in 6x4 DIESEL. Spread load evenly. Tie loads down.
- Reduce speed and load on rough or hilly ground.



# SAFETY SIGNS

## DANGER

### EXPLOSIVE GASES

Cigarettes, flames or sparks could cause battery to explode. Always shield eyes and face from battery. Do not charge or use booster cables or adjust post connections without proper instruction and training. Keep vent caps tight and level.

## POISON

### CAUSES SEVERE BURNS

Contains sulfuric acid. Avoid contact with skin, eyes or clothing. In event of accident, flush with water and call a physician immediately. Keep out of reach of children.



**NOTE:** The following caution only applies to units equipped with a power lift for the cargo box.

## CAUTION

### HELP PREVENT INJURY WHEN DUMPING LOADS

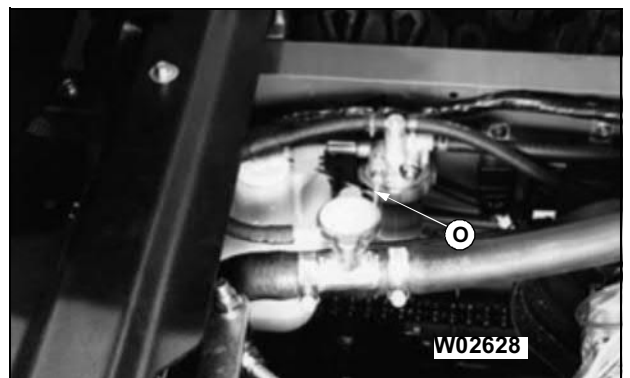
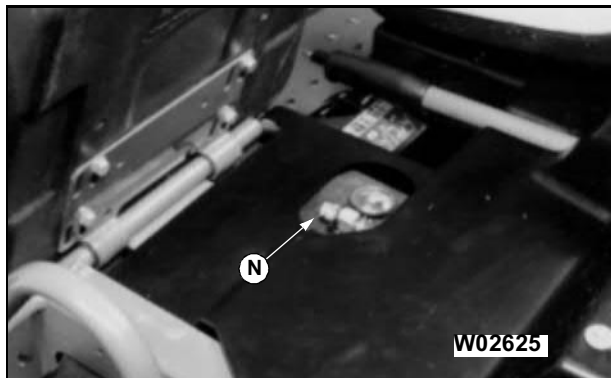
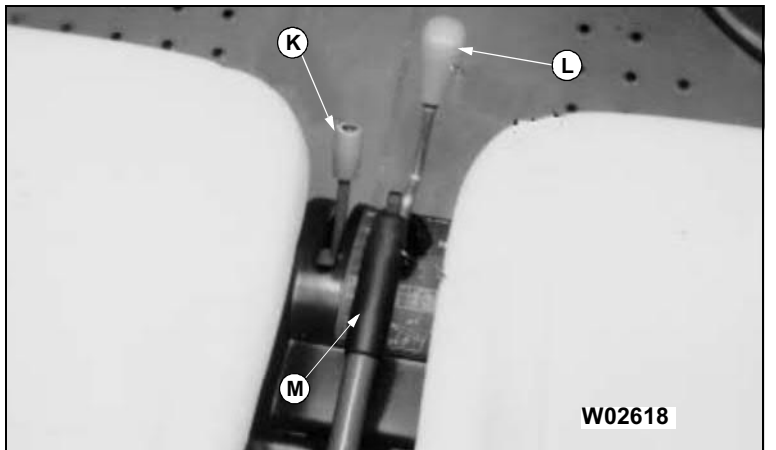
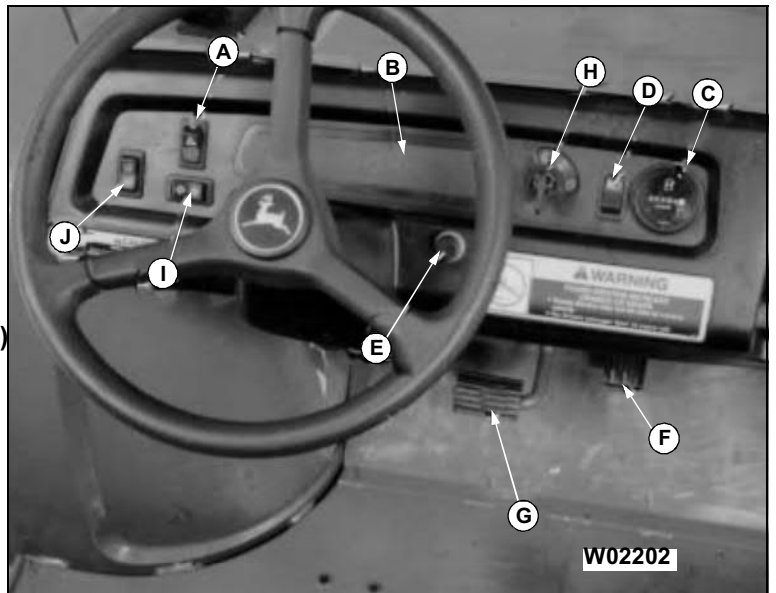
- Operate dump with machine stationary and parking brake locked:  
Never dump while moving
- Operate dump on level ground only
- Operate dump from operator's seat only
- Do not place hands behind seat when lowering box
- Refer to Operator's Manual for correct load distribution



# CONTROLS

## Operator Controls

- A - Warning Light Switch (Optional)
- B - Indicator Panel
- C - Hourmeter
- D - Headlight Switch
- E - Horn (Optional)
- F - Accelerator
- G - Brake Pedal
- H - Key Switch
- I - Turn Signal Switch and Indicator (Optional)
- J - Cargo Box Dump Switch (Optional)
- K - Differential Lock Lever
- L - Transaxle Shift Lever
- M - Parking Brake Lever
- N - Fuel Shutoff Valve
- O - Fuel Shut Off Valve-Fuel Filter

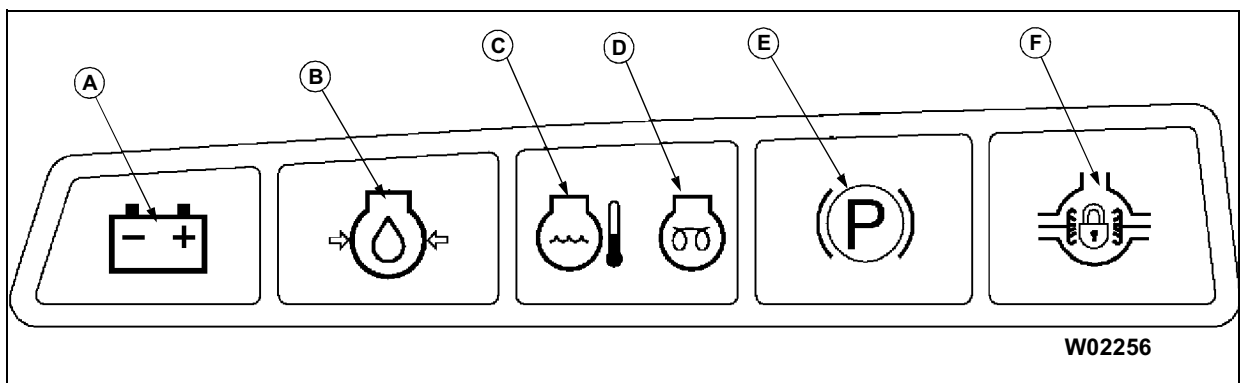


# CONTROLS

## Indicator Panel

- A - Battery
- B - Oil Pressure
- C - Coolant Temperature
- D - Engine Preheat
- E - Parking Brake
- F - Differential Lock

**NOTE:** Only one indicator bulb illuminates both Coolant Temperature (C) and Engine Preheat (D) Indicators at the same time.



# OPERATING MACHINE

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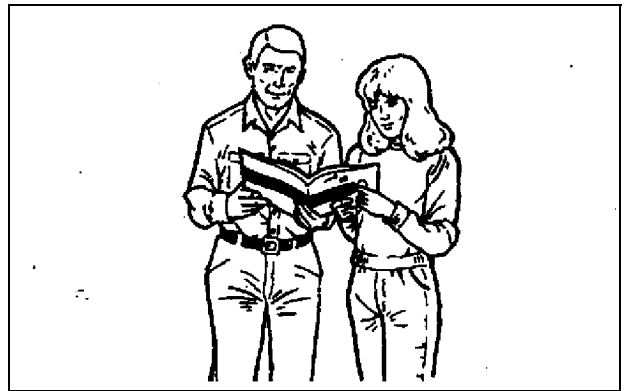
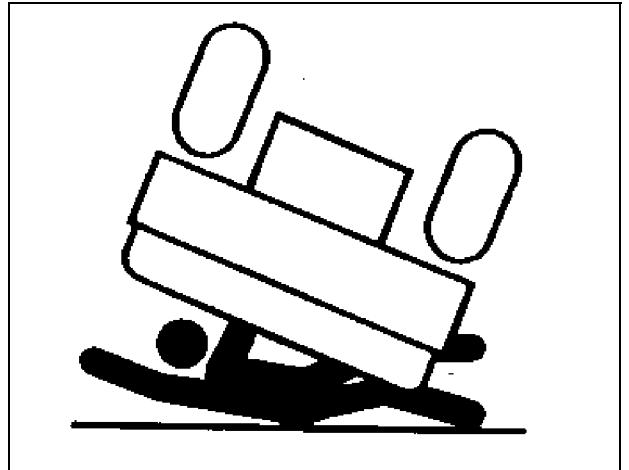
## Operate Safely

- View the videotape provided with the vehicle for safe operating practices.
- DO NOT misuse the GATOR<sup>®</sup>, it is a utility vehicle NOT a recreation vehicle.
- Sit on the center of the seat and keep both feet within the foot platform perimeter. Clean foot platform if dirty, and remove any debris from around foot controls.
- Check for debris in engine compartment, especially around brake linkage on each side of the transaxle.
- Always use both hands for steering.
- Know location of controls and how and what they operate.
- Never operate utility vehicle while standing.
- Never operate utility vehicle with the cargo box raised.
- Check brake action before beginning vehicle operation. Adjust or service the brakes as necessary.
- To provide adequate braking ability and traction, DO NOT tow any attachment or loaded trailer unless the utility vehicle cargo box is loaded.
- Inspect vehicle before operating. 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 operating.
- Keep people and pets out of the work area. Stop the vehicle if anyone enters the area. If an object is hit, stop and inspect the vehicle for damage. Make repairs before operating.
- Keep headlight lenses clean.
- DO NOT leave vehicle unattended when it is running.
- Only operate during daylight or with good artificial light.
- Be careful of traffic when operating near or crossing roadways.
- This vehicle is NOT intended for use on highways or public roadways. It is to be used for off-road use only.
- Avoid sudden starts, stops, or turns.
- Always use a level turn-around area.
- DO NOT wear headphones while operating.

# OPERATING MACHINE

## Before Driving

**⚠ CAUTION:** Help prevent severe bodily injury or death to yourself and others due to roll-over caused by loss of control and/or stability. This vehicle is NOT intended for use on highways or public roadways. It is to be used for off-road use only. Be sure the videotape on safe operation of vehicle is viewed by anyone operating the vehicle for the first time. Keep children and others away when you operate the vehicle. Never carry children in the cargo area. DO NOT let children ride on the utility vehicle or any attachment. Seating is provided for the operator and one passenger. No riders are allowed in the cargo box or anywhere else on the vehicle.



1. Clean foot platform if dirty, and remove any debris from around foot controls. Sit on the center of seat and keep both feet inside foot platform perimeter.
2. Know location of controls and how and what they operate.
3. Inspect utility vehicle for signs of wear or damage.
4. All safety equipment must be in good condition and fastened in place:
  - Load guard
  - Lights
  - Shields
  - Safety start devices
5. Before moving, check around utility vehicle, be sure no one is near it.
6. Securely anchor all loads.



# OPERATING MACHINE

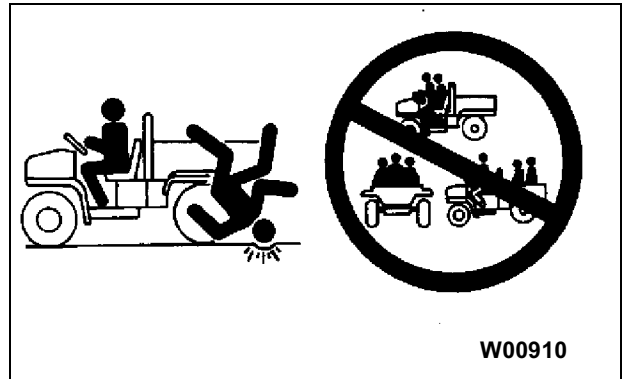
## Protect Children and Prevent Accidents

### PROTECT CHILDREN:

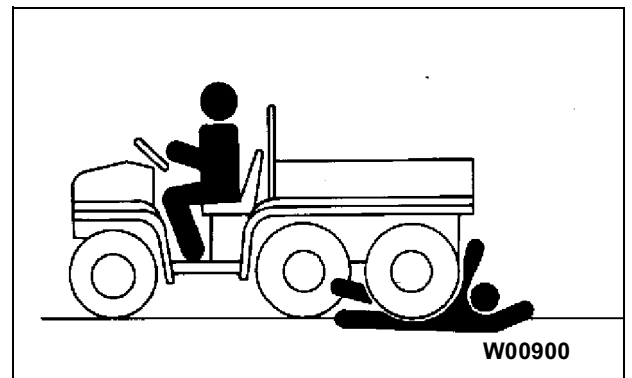
- Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them. Stay alert to the presence of children.
- Never carry children in the cargo box area. **DO NOT** let children ride in the cargo box of the utility vehicle or any attachment. **DO NOT** tow children in a cart or trailer.
- Use extra care when coming to blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may block vision.
- **DO NOT** let children or an untrained person operate the vehicle.
- Before backing or turning, look behind and around the utility vehicle for children.

### HELP PREVENT SERIOUS OR FATAL ACCIDENTS:

- Be alert at all times, drive forward and in reverse carefully. People, especially children, can move quickly into an area of operation.
- Back carefully. Look behind the vehicle, especially for children, before backing up.
- **DO NOT** operate vehicle if under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Misuse and recreational riding can lead to accidents, severe bodily injury or death.



W00910



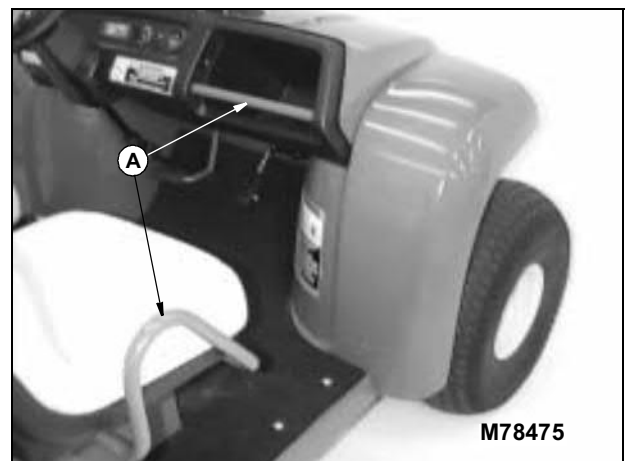
W00900

## Park Safely

1. Stop the vehicle on a level surface, not on a slope.
2. Engage park brake.
3. STOP engine.
4. Remove key.
5. Before you leave the operator's seat, wait for engine and all moving parts to STOP.

## Use Hand Holds

Hand Holds (A) are provided for passenger balance when driving over rough terrain. Use dash bar and side rails on seats for stability.



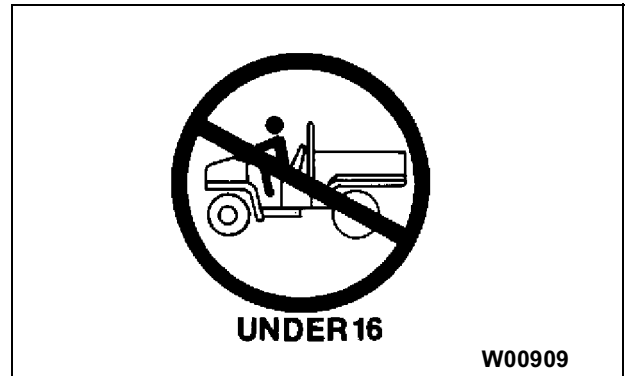
M78475

# OPERATING MACHINE

## Operator Training Required

Study operation section of this manual before operating the vehicle.

- Operate vehicle in an open, unobstructed area under the direction of an experienced operator.
- Learn the use of all controls.
- Operator experience is required to learn the moving, stopping, turning and other operating characteristics of the vehicle.
- Young drivers may not have the strength or experience to control the utility vehicle. This increases the chances of rolling the vehicle over resulting in severe bodily injury or death.
- The utility vehicle should NOT be operated by anyone under the age of 16 years.

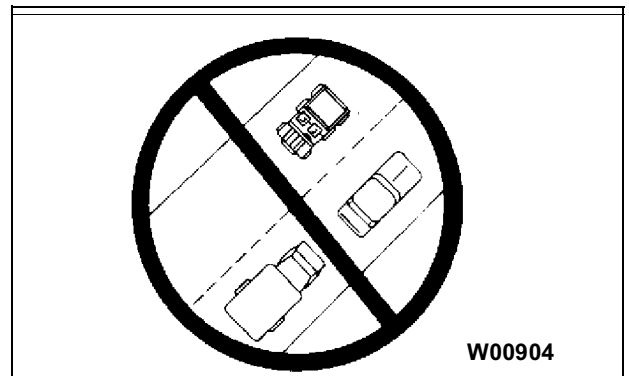


## No Driving On Public Roads



**CAUTION: This vehicle is NOT intended for use on highways or public roadways. It is to be used for off-road utility use only.**

**Do not operate utility vehicle on a public roadway or highway where GATOR may be a hazard to faster moving traffic.**



Before you drive utility vehicle, be sure:

Reflective tape is clean.

Headlight, taillight, brake light lenses are clean and operate.

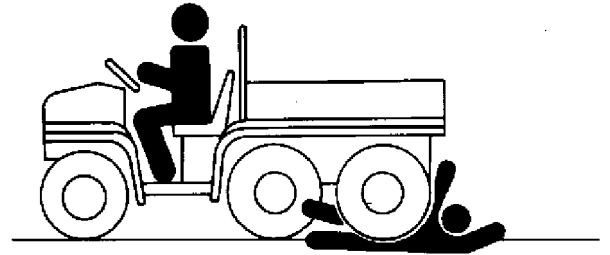


## OPERATING MACHINE

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### Keep Riders Off Vehicle

- Seating is provided for operator and one passenger. No riders are allowed in cargo box or anywhere else on vehicle.
- Riders on vehicle are subject to injury such as being struck by foreign objects or being thrown off of the vehicle and severely injured or killed.
- Riders affect the operator's ability to control the vehicle as well as its center of gravity. Also, riders could obstruct the operator's view resulting in the vehicle being operated in an unsafe manner.



W00900

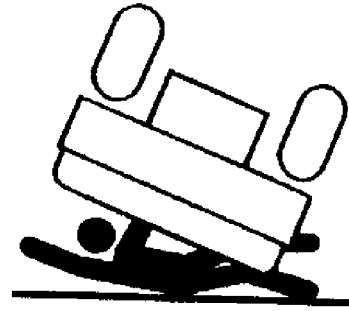
# OPERATING MACHINE

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## Avoid Tipping

Accidents resulting in serious injury or death can occur from tipping the GATOR. Observe the following practices to help prevent accidents:

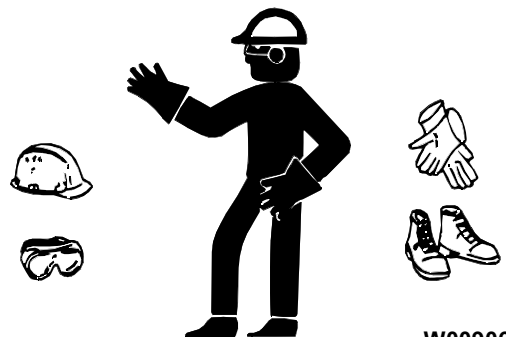
- DO NOT misuse the GATOR. The GATOR is not designed for recreational riding.
- Never allow riders in the cargo box or other areas where seats are not provided.
- Drive very slowly when turning. Sharp turns could cause the utility vehicle to tip over, even at slower speeds on level ground.
- Reduce speed and exercise extreme caution on slopes or on rough ground.
- DO NOT overload vehicle and avoid shifting loads. Reduce load when operating over rough or hilly terrain.
- DO NOT stop or start suddenly when going uphill or downhill. Be especially cautious when changing direction on slopes.
- Stay alert for holes, rocks, and other hidden hazards in the terrain.
- Keep front wheels straight at crest of hill or going over bumps.
- When descending a hill, remove foot from accelerator and apply brakes to reduce speed and maintain control.
- DO NOT make changes or modifications to the GATOR.
- Use of a helmet and/or protective gear is recommended for certain operating conditions.



W15212

## Wear Appropriate Clothing

- Wear close fitting clothing and safety equipment appropriate for the job.
- Loud noise can cause impairment or loss of hearing, wear a suitable protective device such as earplugs.

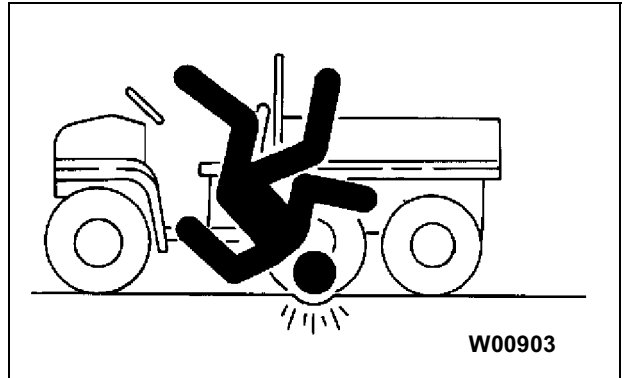


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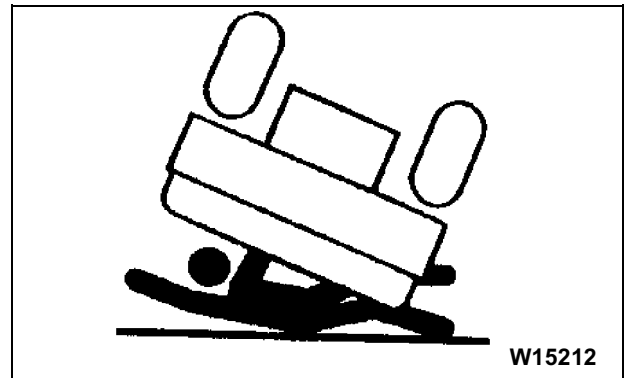
# OPERATING MACHINE

## Driving On Rough Or Hilly Terrain

**CAUTION:** Help prevent severe bodily injury or death due to loss of control. Reduce load when operating over rough or hilly terrain. Reduce speed when turning or when operating around obstacles or rough terrain. Check the terrain and know the operational capability of the vehicle. Choose places to operate carefully.



- Horseplay or recreational riding can lead to accidents, severe bodily injury or death.
- Always use the brakes when going down slopes. The utility vehicle can speed-up (freewheel) going down a slope. When carrying a load, be sure the load is evenly distributed and secured. Braking could shift the load and affect vehicle stability. Due to belt drive, engine and/or clutch, braking effect can be minimal.
- Use existing trails. Avoid terrain such as dangerous slopes and impassable swamps. Watch carefully for sharp bumps, holes, ruts, or obstacles.
- Look ahead at terrain. Know what is coming and be prepared to react. Be alert for hazards.
- Keep front wheels straight at crest of hill or going over bumps.
- Adjust speed according to trail, terrain, and visibility conditions.
- Use of a helmet and or protective gear is recommended for certain operating conditions.



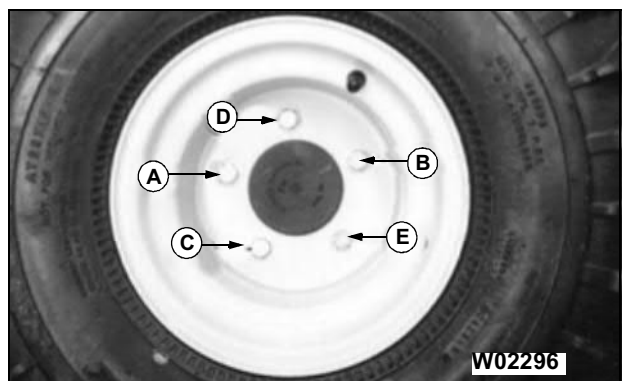
## Check Wheel Bolts

**IMPORTANT:** Overtightening of front wheel bolts may result in bearing damage.

- A serious accident could occur causing serious injury if wheel bolts are not tight.
- Check wheel bolt tightness after first 10 hours of vehicle operation and every 200 hours thereafter.

**Picture Note:** Tighten in order of letters on photo.

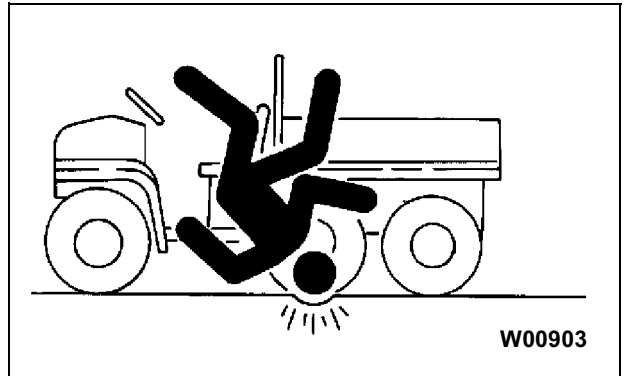
- Tighten front wheel bolts to 90 N•m (65 lb-ft.).
- Tighten bolts on the drive wheels to 100 N•m (75 lb-ft.)



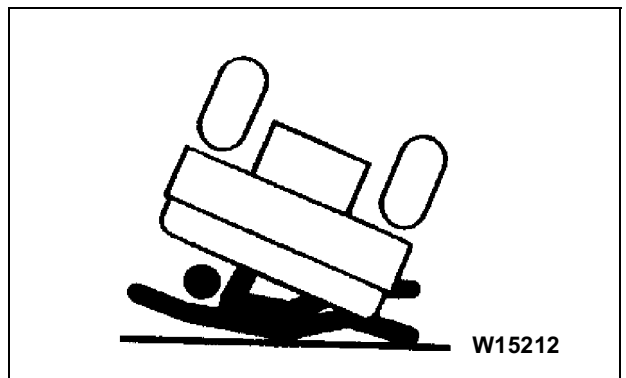
## OPERATING MACHINE

### Climbing Or Descending A Hill

**⚠ CAUTION:** Help prevent severe bodily injury or death due to loss of control. Reduce load when operating over rough terrain. Due to belt drive there is minimal engine braking effect, utility vehicle will freewheel going down slopes. Reduce speed when turning or when operating around obstacles or on rough ground.



- Always use the brakes when going down slopes. The utility vehicle can speedup (freewheel) going down a slope. When carrying a load, be sure they are loaded evenly and secured. Braking could shift the load and affect vehicle stability. Due to belt drive, engine and/or clutch braking effect is minimal.
- Sit on center of seat and keep both feet within foot platform.
- Never drive past the limit of visibility. Slow down near crest of hill until getting a clear view of the other side.
- Keep front wheels straight at crest of hill or going over bumps.
- DO NOT stop or start suddenly when going uphill or downhill. Be especially cautious when changing direction on slopes.
- If vehicle stops or loses power going up a hill, apply park brake to hold vehicle on slope. Maintain direction of travel and release brake slowly. Back straight down hill slowly while maintaining control. DO NOT turn vehicle sideways. Vehicle is more stable in a straight forward or rearward position.
- When descending a hill, remove foot from accelerator and apply brakes to reduce speed and maintain control.
- Use of a helmet and/or protective gear is recommended for certain operating conditions.

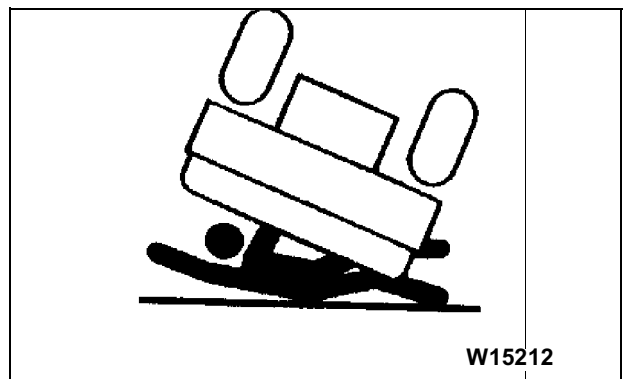
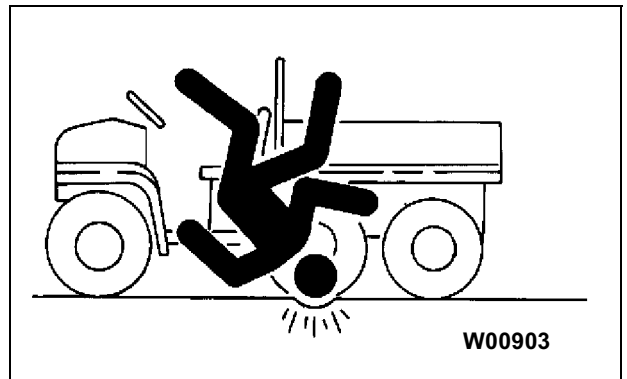


# OPERATING MACHINE

## Driving Across Slopes

**CAUTION:** Help prevent severe bodily injury or death due to tipping or loss of control. Reduce speed and exercise extreme caution on slopes and in sharp turns. Be especially cautious when changing direction on slopes.

- Sit on center of seat and keep both feet within foot platform perimeter.
- Stay alert for holes, rocks and other hidden hazards in the terrain.
- When riding on soft terrain, turn front wheels slightly uphill to keep utility vehicle on a straight line across the hill.
- If utility vehicle begins to tip, turn front wheel downhill to gain control before proceeding.
- Use of a helmet or protective gear is recommended for certain operating conditions.



## Riding Through Water

**CAUTION:** Help prevent severe bodily injury or death due to loss of vehicle control.

- Avoid water whenever possible. If drive belt becomes wet, slippage will occur and vehicle will lose power
- Sit on center of seat and keep both feet within foot platform perimeter.
- Reduce speed while driving through water.

Never cross any body of water where depth may be unknown to the operator. As an operational guideline, deep water is considered anything in excess of 152 mm (6 in.) in depth. Tires may float, making it difficult to maintain control.

- Choose a course within the waterway where both banks have a gradual incline. Cross at a point known to be safe.
- Proceed at a slow steady speed to avoid submerged obstacles and slippery rocks.
- Avoid water crossings where the operation of a utility vehicle may cause damage to waterway beds or erode waterway shoreline.



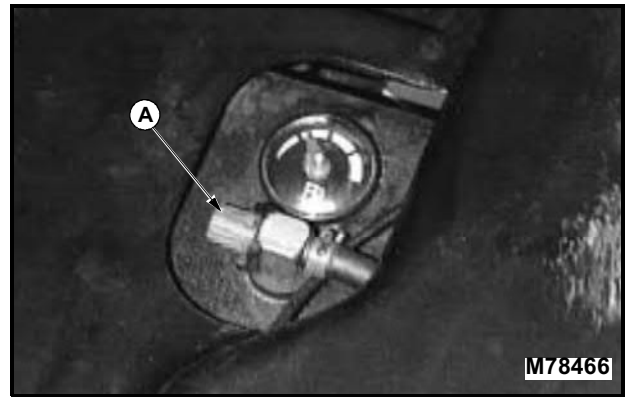
## OPERATING MACHINE

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### Using Fuel Shut-Off Valve

1. Lift and tip operator seat forward.
2. Turn knob (A) to shut OFF or turn ON fuel flow. Arrow on knob should face upward for fuel flow to be ON.

**NOTE:** *The fuel shut-off valve should be closed if the vehicle is to be transported or placed in extended storage.*





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# OPERATING MACHINE

## Operating Brake and Accelerator Pedals

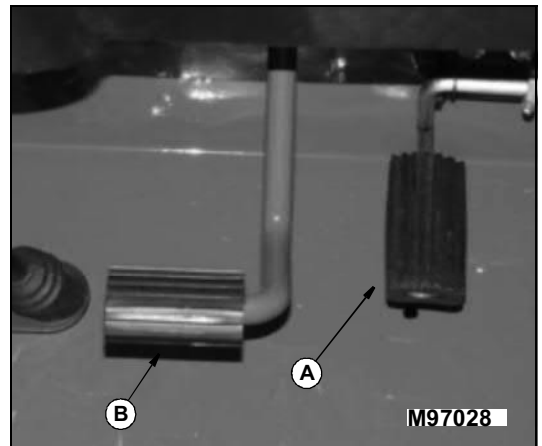
**CAUTION:** Help prevent bodily injury due to loss of control, load shifting and/or tipping. Reduce speed before braking, when turning, when hauling loads at higher speeds, when operating around obstacles, and when operating on any hazardous off-road conditions.

Release accelerator (A) and apply brake pedal (B) evenly and firmly to slow down or stop.

Avoid hard braking applications.

Push down accelerator slowly and smoothly.

Before braking remove foot from the accelerator pedal.



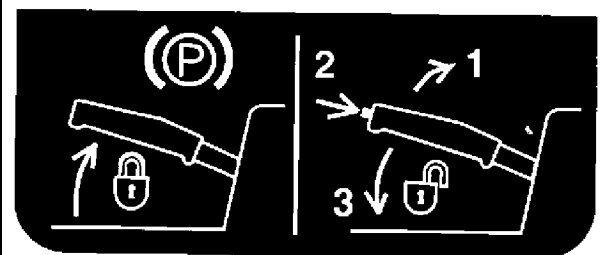
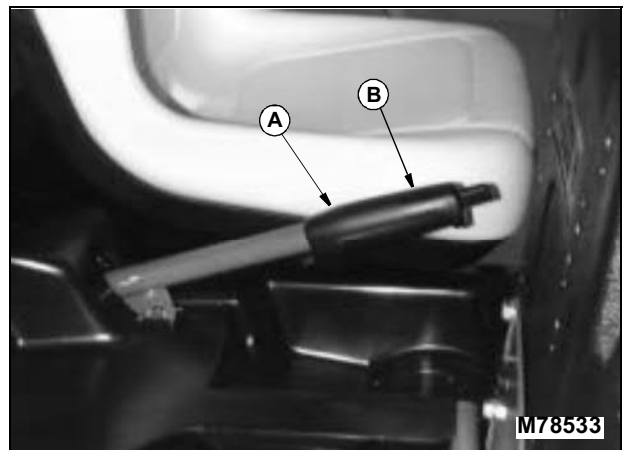
## Using Park Brake

**NOTE:** Applying foot brake pedal while engaging and disengaging park brake decreases effort required to pull or push park brake lever.

- To ENGAGE park brake:
  - Pull up lever (A) and latch into position.
- To DISENGAGE park brake:

**Picture Note:** Decal located on console below park brake lever.

- Pull up on lever (A).
- Depress button (B).
- Push lever (A) down.



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