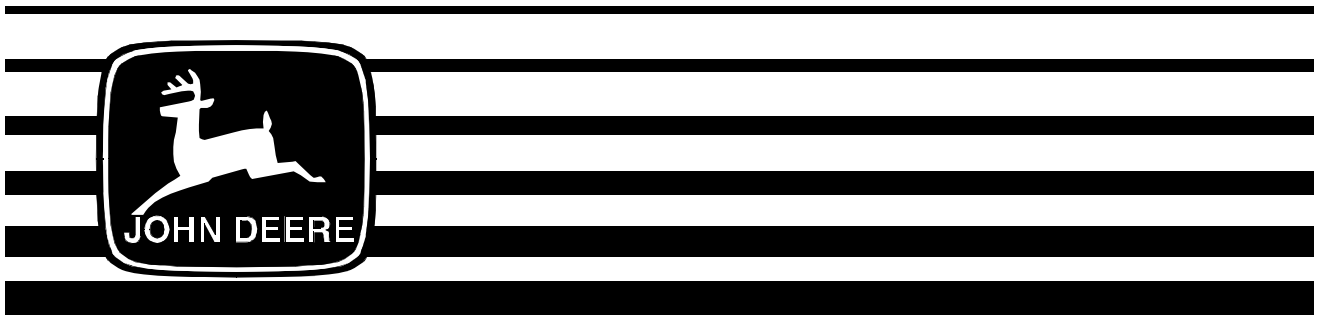


Mid-Mount ZTRAK M653, M655 and M665

Serial No. (010001–)



OPERATOR'S MANUAL

John Deere
Worldwide Commercial And
Consumer Equipment Division
OMM138801 F9

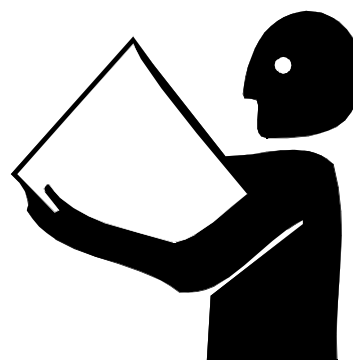
North American Version
Litho in U.S.A.

English

INTRODUCTION

THANK YOU for purchasing a John Deere product.

Read this manual 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.

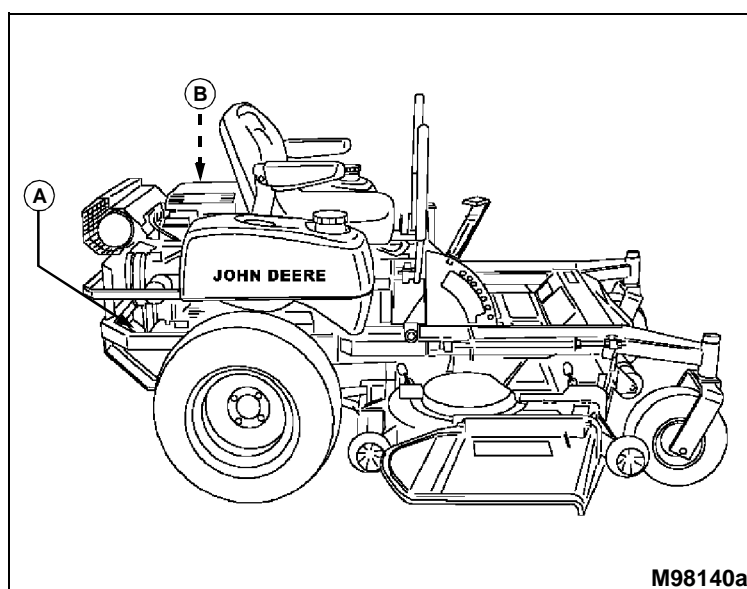
DATE OF PURCHASE:

DEALER NAME:

DEALER PHONE:

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (A):

ENGINE SERIAL NUMBER (B):



M98140a

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Safety Signs	1
Controls	5
Operating	7
Replacement Parts	38
Service Machine Safely	39
Service Interval Chart	41
Service—Lubrication	44
Service—Engine	49
Service—Transmission	58
Service—Steering and Brakes	69
Service—Mower	75
Service—Electric	86
Service—Miscellaneous	91
Troubleshooting	95
Storing Machine	100
Assembly	102
Specifications	108
Warranty	118
Index	122
John Deere Service Literature	127

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John Deere Worldwide Commercial and
Consumer Equipment Division
Horicon, WI
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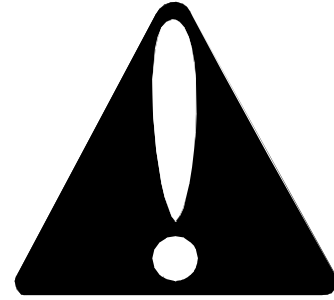
SAFETY SIGNS

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 machine 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.

Keep safety signs in good condition. You can buy safety signs from your John Deere dealer.

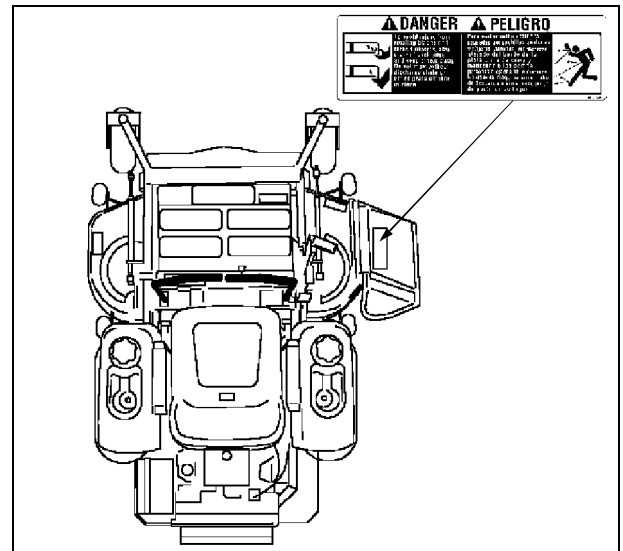


Machine Safety Labels

DANGER

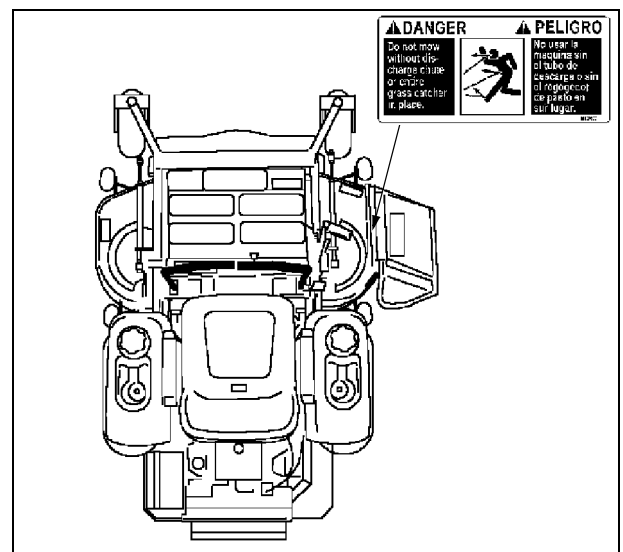
To avoid injury from rotating blades and thrown objects, stay clear of deck edge and keep others away.

Do not mow without discharge chute or entire grass catcher in place.



DANGER

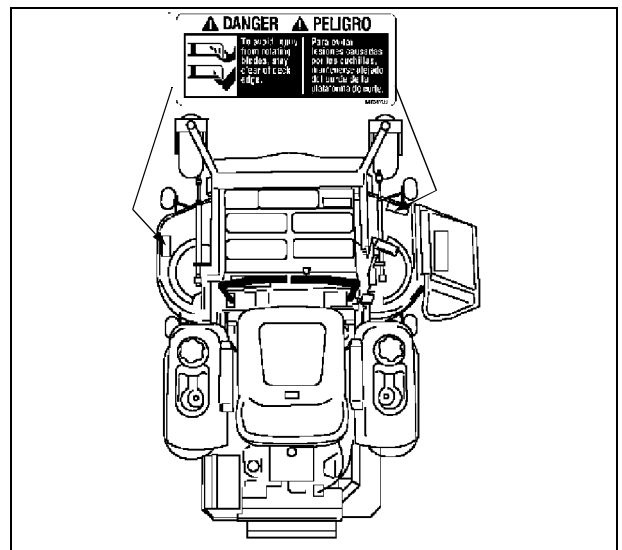
Do not mow without discharge chute or entire grass catcher in place.



SAFETY SIGNS

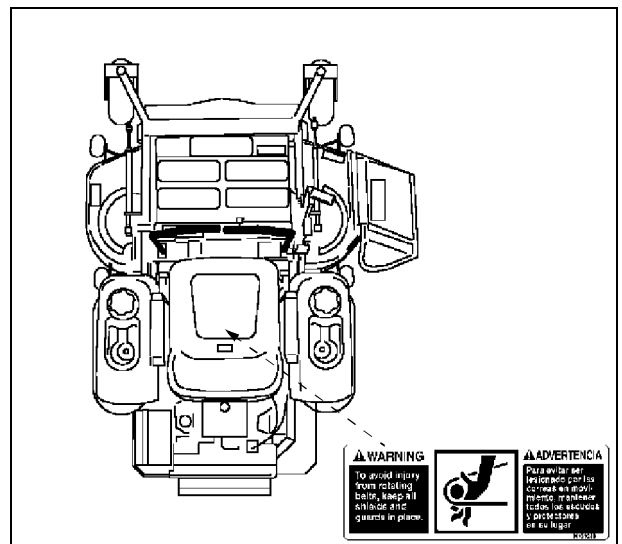
DANGER

To avoid injury from rotating blades, stay clear of deck edge.



WARNING

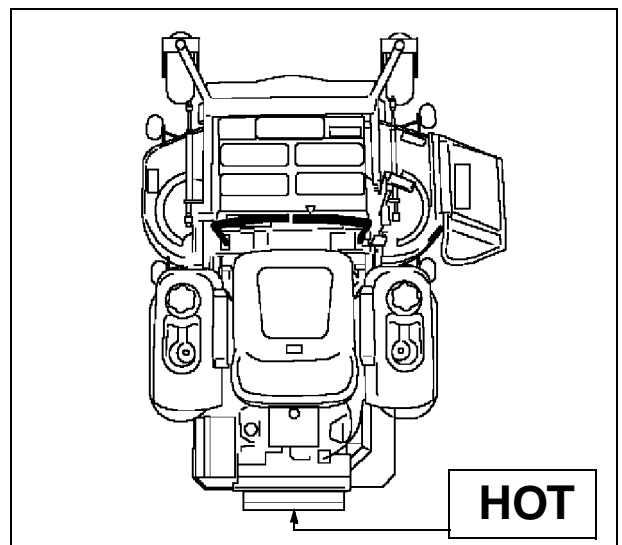
To avoid injury from rotating belts, keep all shields and guards in place.



WARNING-HOT SURFACE

Picture Note: "HOT" muffer warning stamped into the muffer heat shield.

DO NOT touch the muffer heat shield, it may be hot.

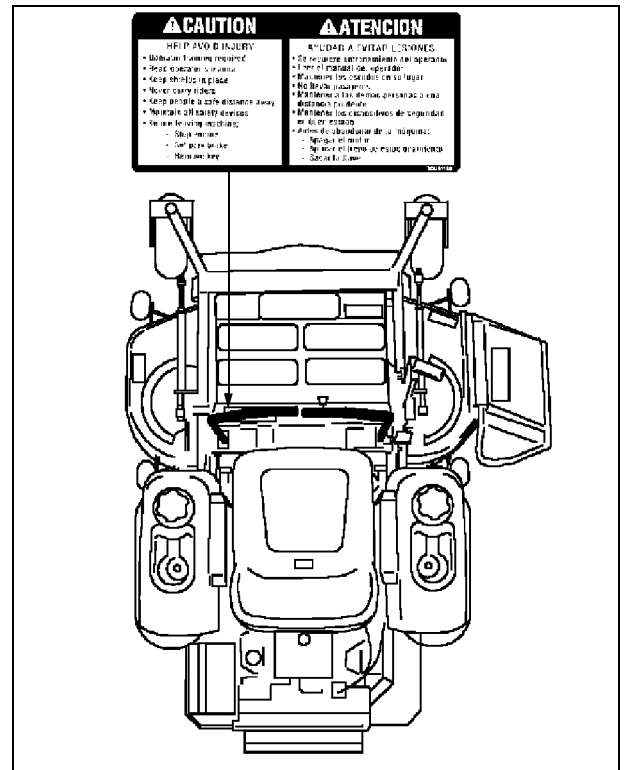


SAFETY SIGNS

CAUTION

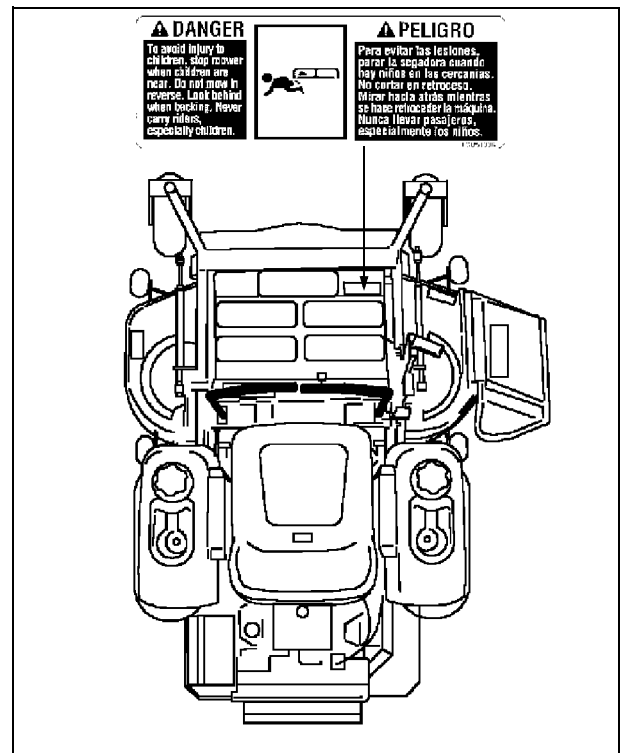
HELP AVOID INJURY

- Operator training required
- Read operator's manual
- Keep shields in place
- Never carry riders
- Keep people a safe distance away
- Maintain all safety devices
- Before leaving machine:
 - Stop engine
 - Set park brake
 - Remove key



DANGER

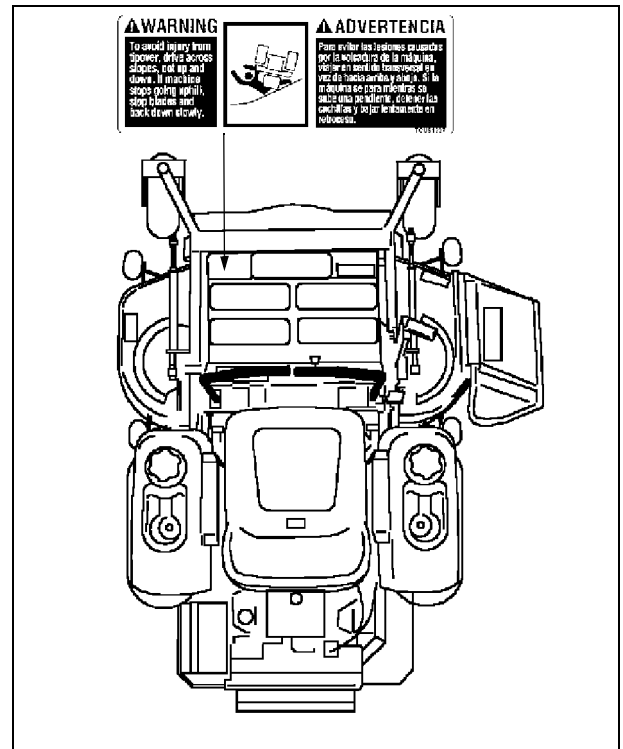
To avoid injury to children, stop mower when children are near. Do not mow in reverse. Look behind when backing. Never carry riders, especially children.



SAFETY SIGNS

WARNING

To avoid injury from tipover, drive across slopes, not up and down. If machine stops going uphill, stop blades and back down slowly.



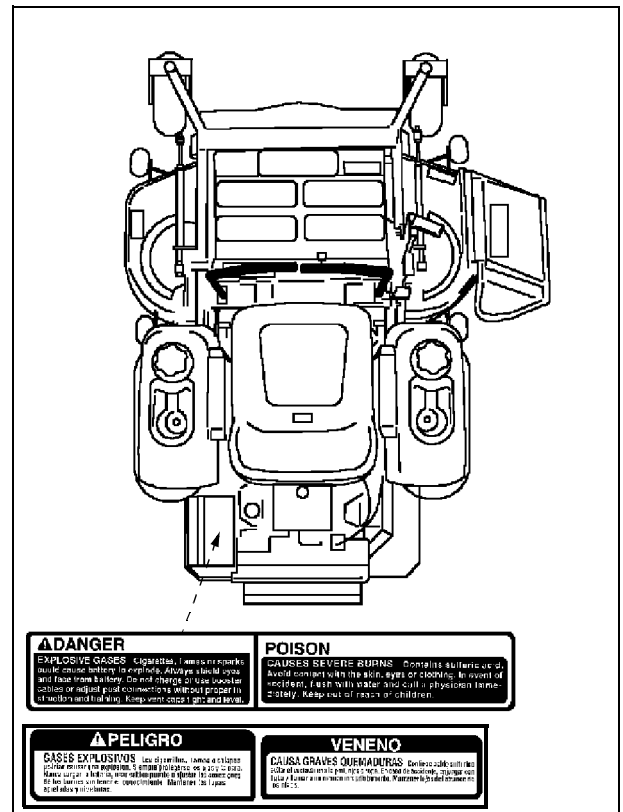
DANGER/POISON

Explosive Gases

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

Causes Severe Burns

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



CONTROLS

Operator Station Controls

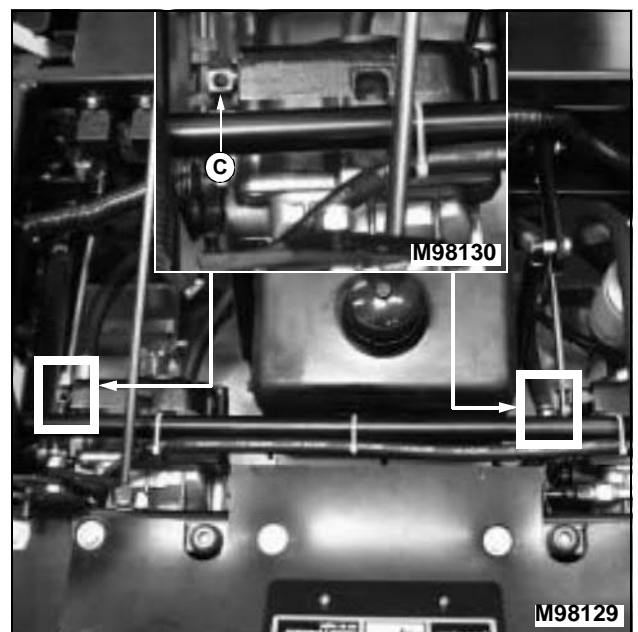
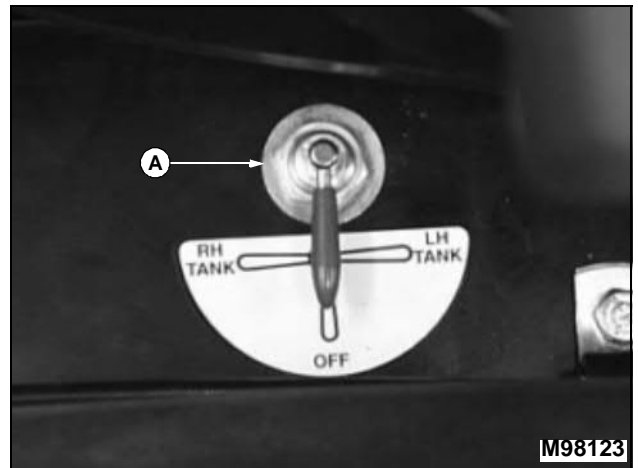
- A - Motion Control Levers
- B - Deck Lift Lever
- C - Throttle Lever
- D - Key Switch
- E - Choke
- F - PTO Switch
- G - Hour Meter
- H - Park Brake Lever



CONTROLS

Miscellaneous Controls

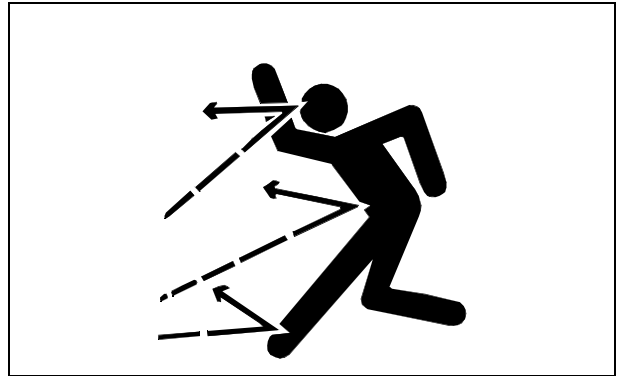
- A - Fuel Selector Valve
- B - Seat Adjustment Lever
- C - Free-Wheeling Pump Release Valves



OPERATING MACHINE

Operate Safely

- Check brake action before you operate. Adjust or service brakes as necessary.
- 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.
- Clear work area of objects that might be thrown. Keep people and pets out of the work area. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.
- If you hit an object, stop the machine and inspect it. Make repairs before you operate. Keep machine and attachments properly maintained and in good working order.
- DO NOT leave machine unattended when it is running.
- Only operate during daylight or with good artificial light.
- Be careful of traffic when operating near or crossing roadways.
- Do not wear radio or music headphones while operating the machine. Safe operation requires your full attention.

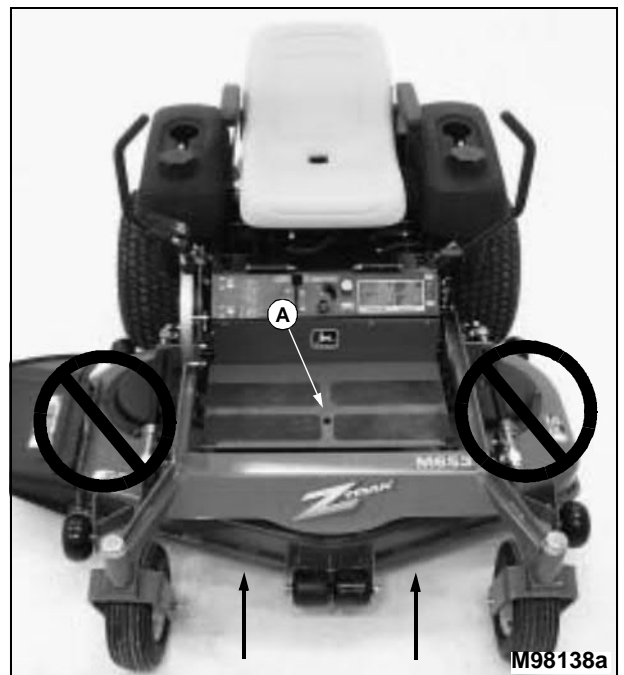


Mount and Dismount Machine Safely

DO NOT step on either side of the mower deck when mounting and dismounting the machine. Mount the machine from the front using foot plate (A).

Keep the foot plate clean.

1. Stop machine.
2. Move the motion control levers to the NEUTRAL LOCK position.
3. Disengage PTO.
4. Engage park brake.
5. Stop engine and remove key.
6. Wait for all moving parts to stop before dismounting.



OPERATING MACHINE

Rotating Blades are Dangerous - Protect Children and Prevent Accidents

PROTECT CHILDREN:

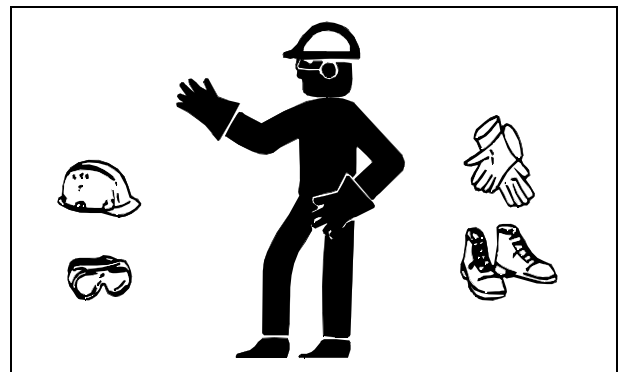
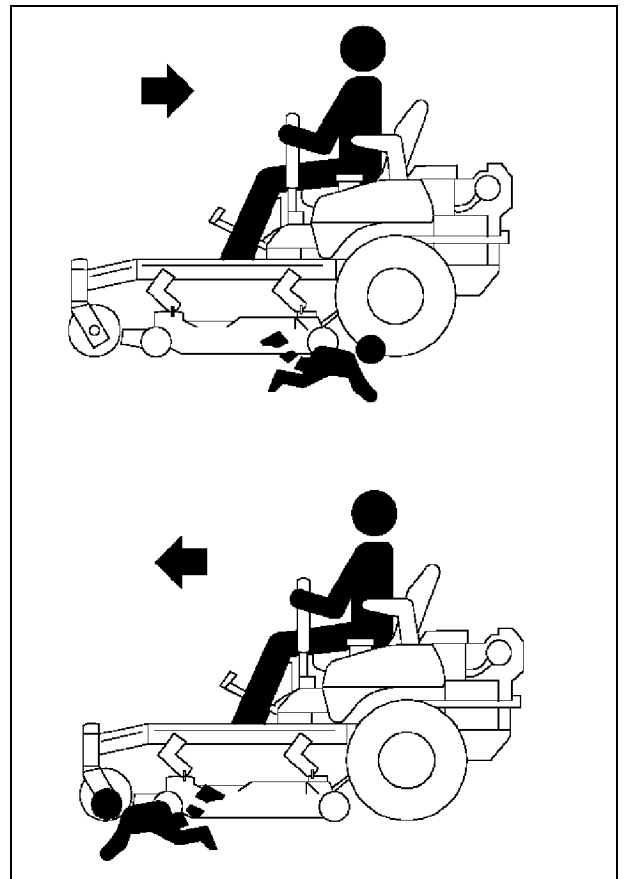
- Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them. Children are attracted to mowing activity, stay alert to the presence of children.
- Keep children in the house when you are operating the machine.
- Turn machine off if a child enters the mowing area.
- Use extra care when you come to blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may block your vision.
- DO NOT let children or an untrained person operate the machine.
- DO NOT carry or let children ride on machine or any attachment. DO NOT tow children in a cart or trailer.

HELP PREVENT SERIOUS OR FATAL ACCIDENTS:

- Be alert at all times, drive forward carefully. People especially children can move quickly into the mowing area before you know it.
- Back carefully. Shut off PTO and look behind the machine carefully, especially for children, before you back up.
- DO NOT mow in reverse unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Shut off PTO when you are not mowing.
- DO NOT operate machine if you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

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.
- Do not wear radio or music headphones while operating the machine. Safe operation requires your full attention.



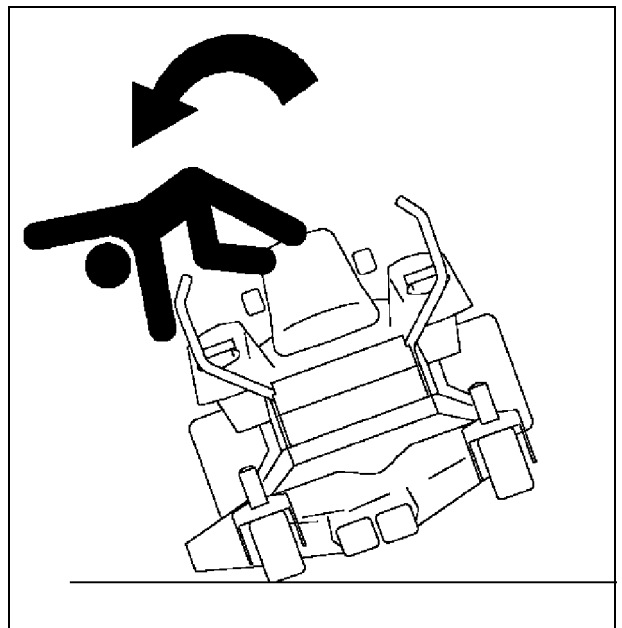
OPERATING MACHINE

Operator Training Required

- Study operation section of this manual before operating the machine.
- Operate machine 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 machine.

Avoid Tipping

- DO NOT operate machine without the mower deck installed.
- DO NOT drive where machine could slip or tip.
- Stay alert for holes and other hidden hazards in the terrain.
- Keep away from drop-offs.
- Slow down before you make a sharp turn or operate on a slope.
- **MOW ACROSS A HILL–NOT UP AND DOWN.** Be careful when you change direction on a slope.
- DO NOT stop when going up or down a hill. If machine stops going up hill, STOP PTO and back down slowly.
- DO NOT mow wet grass. Reduced traction could cause sliding.



Operate Mower Safely on Slopes

Slopes are a major factor related to loss-of-control and tip-over accidents, which can result in severe injury or death. All slopes require extra caution. If an operator is uneasy mowing on a specific slope, **DO NOT** mow it.

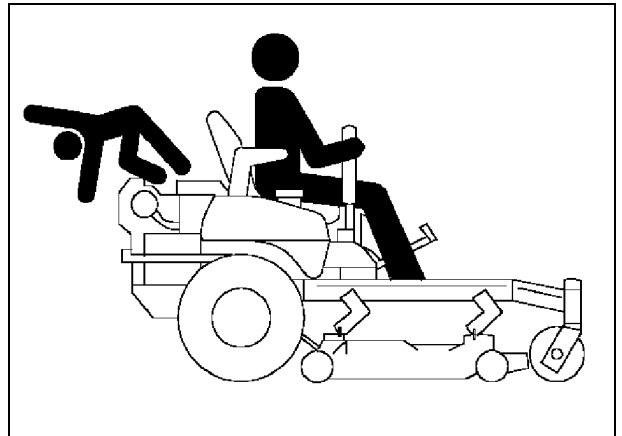
- **MOW ACROSS SLOPES–NOT UP AND DOWN.**
- Remove obstacles such as rocks, tree limbs, etc.
- Watch for holes, ruts, or bumps. Uneven terrain could overturn this machine. Tall grass can hide obstacles.

OPERATING MACHINE

- Keep all movement on slopes slow and gradual. DO NOT make sudden changes in speed or direction.
- Avoid starting or stopping on a slope. If tires lose traction, disengage the mower blades and back slowly and gradually down the slope.
- DO NOT turn on slopes unless necessary, and then, turn slowly and gradually downhill, if possible.
- DO NOT mow near drop-offs, ditches, or embankments. The mower could suddenly turn over if a wheel is over the edge of a ditch, or if an edge caves in.
- DO NOT mow on wet grass. Reduced traction could cause sliding.
- DO NOT try to stabilize this machine by putting your foot on the ground.

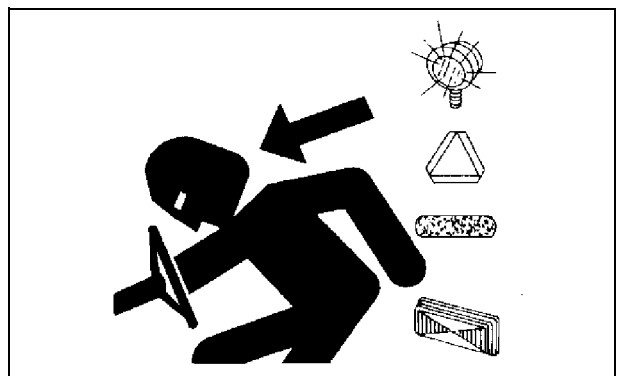
Keep Riders Off

- Only allow the operator on the machine. Keep riders off the machine.
- Riders on the machine may be struck by foreign objects or thrown off the machine causing serious injury.
- Riders obstruct the operator's view resulting in the machine being operated in an unsafe manner.



Transport Safely

- Use safety lights and devices. Slow moving machines when driven on public roads are hard to see, especially at night. Avoid personal injury or death resulting from a collision with a vehicle.
- Flashing warning lights are recommended whenever driving on public roads to increase visibility. Extra flashing warning lights may need to be installed.



OPERATING MACHINE

Avoid High Pressure Fluids

- Hydraulic hoses can fail due to physical damage, kinks, age, and exposure. Check hoses regularly. Replace damaged hoses.
- Escaping fluid under pressure can penetrate the skin causing serious injury. Avoid the hazard by relieving pressure before disconnecting hydraulic or other lines. Tighten all connections before applying pressure.
- Search for leaks with a piece of cardboard. Protect hands and body from high pressure fluids.
- If an accident occurs, see a doctor immediately. Any fluid injected into the skin must be surgically removed within a few hours or gangrene may result. Doctors unfamiliar with this type of injury should reference a knowledgeable medical source. Such information is available from Deere & Company Medical Department in Moline, Illinois, U.S.A. Information may be obtained in the United States and Canada only by calling 1-800-822-8262.



Check Wheel Bolts

- A serious accident could occur causing serious injury if wheel bolts are not tight.
- Check wheel bolt tightness often during the first 100 hours of operation.

Adjusting Seat

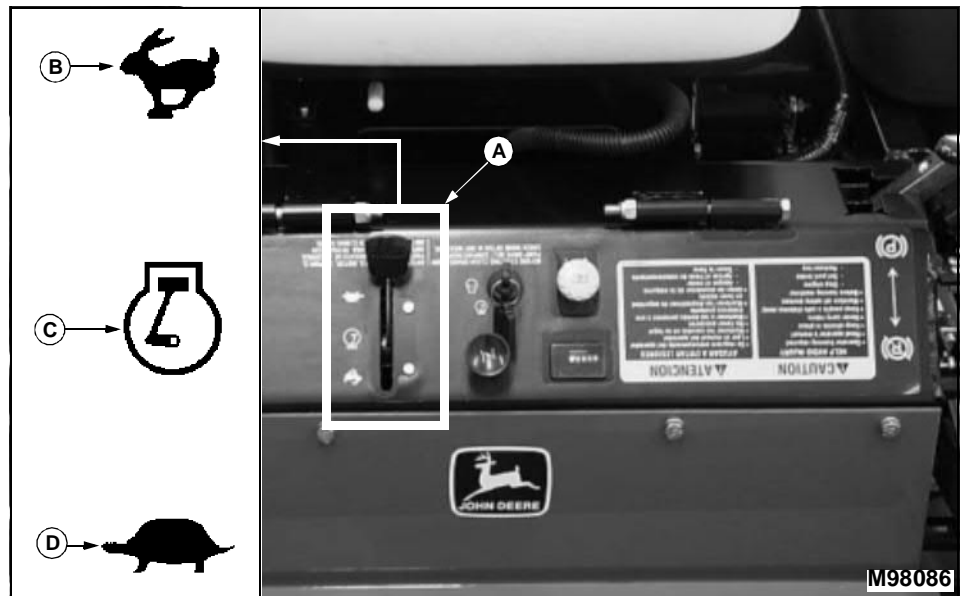
1. Sit on the operator's seat.
2. Push and hold lever (A) to the left.
3. Slide seat forward or backward to desired position.
4. Release lever.



OPERATING MACHINE

Using the Throttle Lever

- Push lever (A) all the way forward to FAST (🐇) position (B) when mowing.
- Move lever (A) to the half throttle position (C) when starting and warming the engine.
- Pull lever (A) to rear to SLOW (🐢) position (D) to idle engine. Do not run engine at SLOW (🐢) idle any longer than necessary.



Using the Hour Meter

NOTE: The machine is equipped with an electric start. The hour meter will continue to run with the key switch left in the RUN position.

- The hour meter (A) shows number of hours the machine has run.
- The service interval chart gives necessary service intervals. Use the hour meter and service interval chart to determine when machine will need service.



OPERATING MACHINE

Using the PTO Switch Knob

Engage PTO:

- Move throttle lever (A) to the 1/2 to 3/4 FAST position.
- Pull PTO knob (B) up.
- Move throttle lever (A) forward to the FAST (🐎) position for mowing.

Disengage PTO:

- Push PTO knob (B) DOWN.



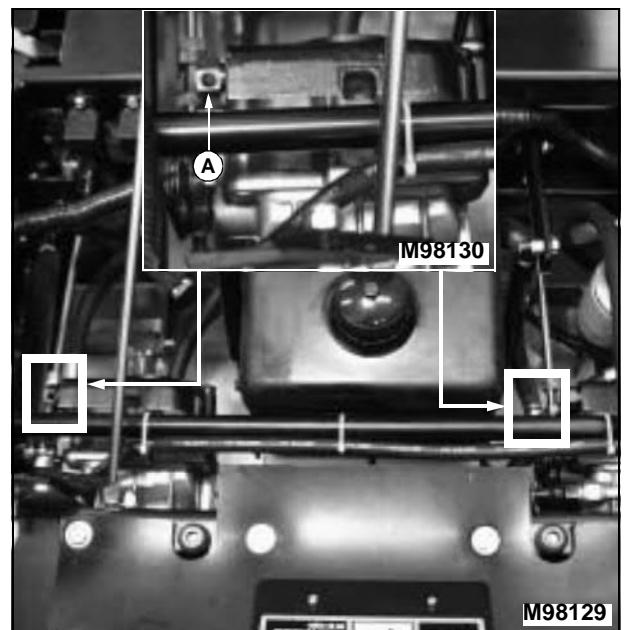
Using the Free-Wheeling Pump Release Valves

IMPORTANT: Help prevent transmission damage. DO NOT tow the machine, push machine by hand only.

NOTE: The free-wheeling pump release valves must be fully turned clockwise (closed) during normal vehicle operation.

When the machine needs to be moved WITHOUT starting the engine, use the free-wheeling pump release valves:

1. Engage the park brake.
2. Lift and secure operator seat in the raised position.
3. Turn both free-wheeling pump release valves (A) counterclockwise approximately 1/4 turn.
4. Lower seat.
5. Release park brake.
6. Push machine to desired location. Due to hydraulic system drag, machine will move slowly.



OPERATING MACHINE

Raising and Lowering Operator Seat

CAUTION: Help prevent serious personal injury. When performing any service function under the operator seat, make sure the seat stop rod securely locks the seat in the raised position.

Raising the Seat

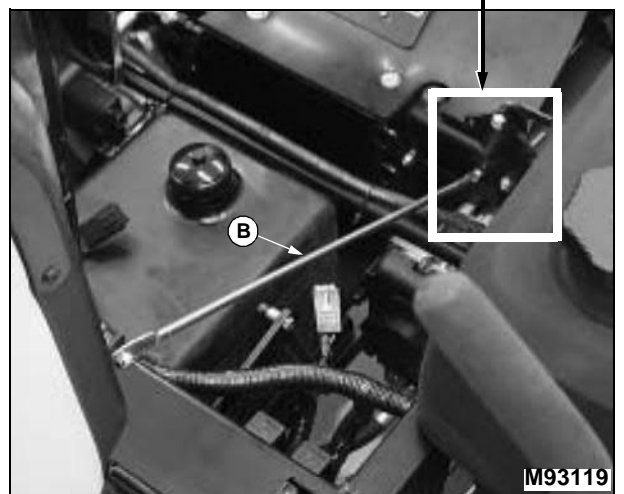
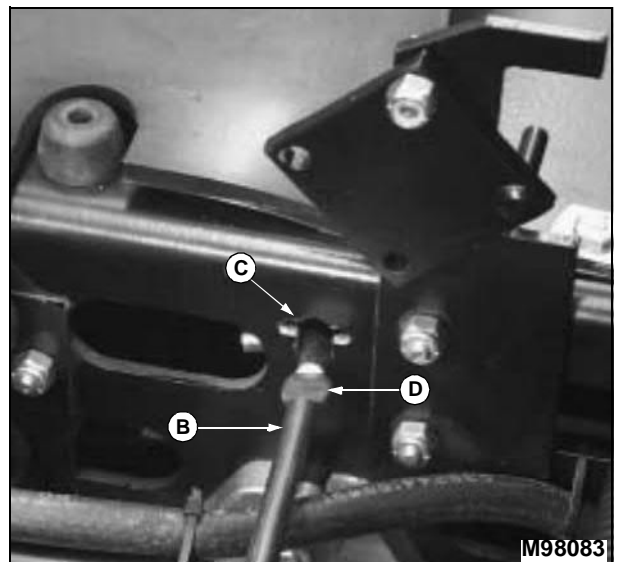
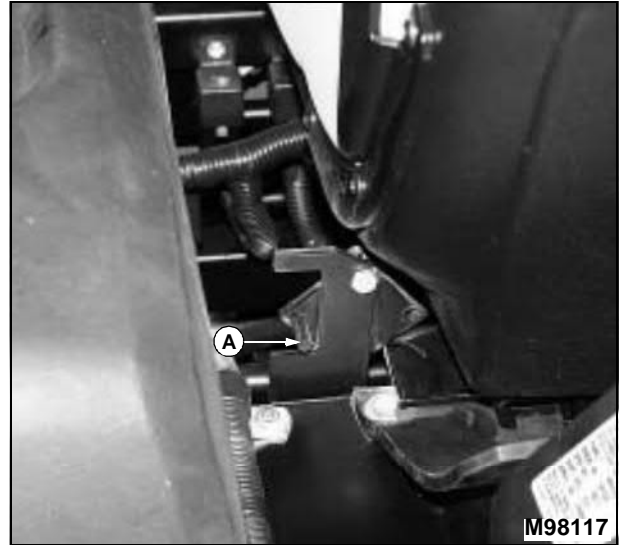
1. Park mower on a hard, level surface.
2. Stop engine and engage park brake.

NOTE: *Seat latch is located under the left side of the operator seat.*

3. Raise latch handle (A) to unlock seat latch.
4. Lift seat, stop rod (B) will travel in slotted frame hole (C).
5. When seat is fully raised, make sure stop rod tab (D) securely locks the seat in the raised position.

Lowering the Seat

1. Stand on the left side of the machine.
2. Move operator seat slightly forward and lift stop rod (B).
3. Slowly lower seat, stop rod (B) will travel in slotted frame hole (C).





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OPERATING MACHINE

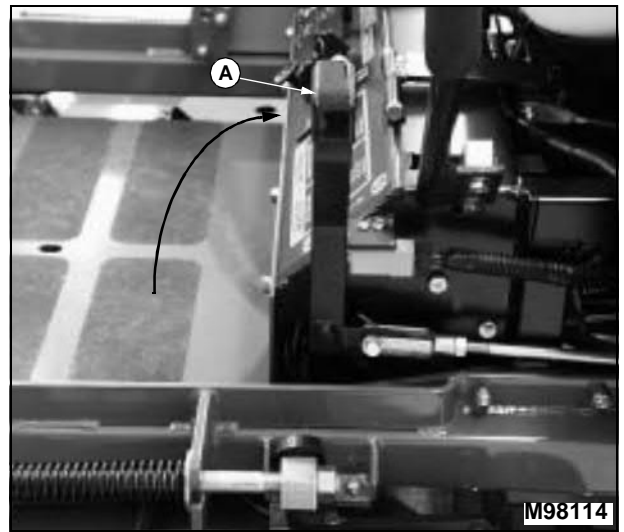
Using the Park Brake Lever

CAUTION: If the engine should kill while operating on an incline, the mower will free wheel. If this should occur, engage the park brake, start the engine, release brake and resume operation.

Setting Park Brake

- Raise park brake lever (A) to ENGAGE (Ⓟ) park brake.

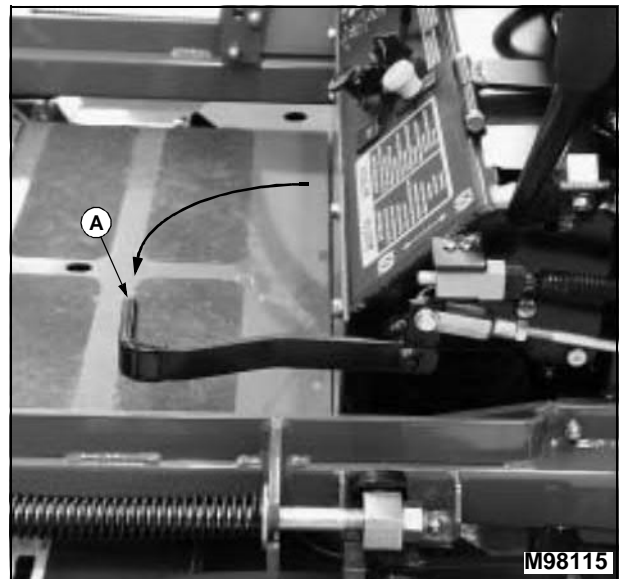
Picture Note: Park brake lever shown raised into the ENGAGE PARK “Ⓟ” position.



Release Park Brake:

- Lower park brake lever (A) to DISENGAGE (Ⓞ) park brake.

Picture Note: Park brake lever shown released and lowered into the DISENGAGE PARK (Ⓞ) position.



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