Ryder Safety Message
Safe Operation of Landing Gear

Key I
Raising or lowering the landing gear on a trailer may seem to be an easy task, but it can become dangerous if not performed correctly. **This routine task has the potential to cause injury to your shoulder, wrist, back and/or face.**

Key II
Do you know that a properly working landing gear can require up to 100 lbs. of force to operate? Coming off a long drive you will need to warm up your back and shoulders with a few stretching exercises before you try to exert this much force on your muscles. Landing gears have two speeds. Slow speed is easier but moves slower. Crank handles can have cuts or burrs on them and they are dirty. Wear work gloves at all times before handling landing gear.

Key III
Make sure you are in the correct speed with proper grip when cranking the landing gear. Select slow or fast speed by the depth you insert the crank shaft. **A good grip will help you maintain the correct posture as well as keep control of your cranking motion.** If your thumb, palm and fingers do not wrap completely around the handle you do not have a good grip. Pay special attention to your footing, especially around wet, slippery or uneven surfaces.

Key IV
NEVER face the side of the trailer when raising it. Raising the height of a trailer requires more power from you. Facing the trailer when cranking hard will require you to bending and twist your back and lead to injury. If you must raise the trailer; place the crank in slow gear. This reduces the distance the handle can kick back on you. Next, change your body position to your power stance: Place both hands on the crank handle with both feet facing the rear of the trailer. This position keeps your back straight and allows you to lift the crank with your legs.

Key V
When raising the landing gear after your tractor has been hooked to the trailer, **start with the slower landing gear speed first** to transfer the weight slowly from the landing gear, to the tractor. **Once the weight is off the landing gear, then, switch to the high speed to finish raising the dolly legs.** At this point, you can begin facing the trailer, utilizing 3 Points of Contact with one hand on the side of the trailer, maintaining good balance and control, while using the other hand to crank the landing gear.