

SAFETY

Safety

Combines and harvesting heads employ the use of aggressive gathering, cutting and conveying components that could present a potential for injury to careless operators or bystanders. Operators must understand and recognize this potential and be constantly aware of their responsibility to keep harvest time a safe and productive season. The best way to assure safe operation is to remember and work by certain basic safety rules that apply to all machine operation, and specifically to harvesting equipment. Specific rules of safe operation are included in the machine Operator's Manual and should be reviewed prior to each season's use. Some of the basic rules for combine and combine header operation are:

- When servicing the machine, make accidental contact or entanglement with moving parts impossible by disengaging all drives and stopping the engine before starting service work. This rule applies to all circumstances such as adjustment, repairs or unplugging the machine.
- Prior to working under or near the combine header, either lower the header completely to the ground, or raise the header completely and lower the header safety stop or stops on the combine feeder lift cylinders (*see figure 4.1*)
- Like the header, the reel height adjustment cylinders are also equipped with safety locks. Lower safety locks when working in the vicinity of the reel, auger, cutter bar and front of the header. The reel should be lowered to the bottom of its travel, or against the safety stops before disconnecting hoses when removing the header.
- Plugged or wrapped material in the auger or reel may "unwind" unexpectedly while working on the machine. Stay clear of the cutter bar knife and exercise caution when unplugging the header.
- During operation, maintain the safest possible work environment by keeping all guards and shields in place and in good condition as intended by the manufacturer
- Observe and understand warning decals that are placed on the machine in specific areas. See your Case IH dealer for replacement decals, should they become damaged or worn and unreadable.



Figure 4.1

- To maintain optimal steering control and machine balance, the rear axle of the combine must be adequately ballasted according to the size and weight of the header. Refer to Operator's Manuals for minimum ballasting requirements for specific combine and header configurations. Operating conditions such as hilly or uneven terrain may require additional ballast for best control.
- When transporting the machine on public roads, at any time of day, make sure all safety warning lights provided with the machine and/or required by local statute are functioning properly for maximum visibility of the machine to other motorists. Make sure the SMV, slow-moving vehicle sign is visible to the rear of the machine, is clean and in good condition. Observe the rules of the road and be a good neighbor. When safe to do so, move over and allow traffic to pass.
- Wider headers may require transport on a trailer to reduce obstruction to other traffic and for overall safe transport. A few minutes to remove and properly transport the head, even a short distance, is better than spending hours dealing with an accident or an eternity living with the consequences. Specific requirements vary with different states or provinces; check with local authorities for specific transport regulations.