

to unintentional engine starting. The engine starting motor will not engage until:

1. Steering control levers are in the park brake position.
2. Deck clutch switch is in the down (OFF) position.

WARNING ⚠

The safety interlock system must not be disconnected or bypassed. Doing so could cause the machine to operate unexpectedly resulting in personal injury.

NOTE: The operator's seat is equipped with a separate safety switch. If for any reason the operator should become unseated when the steering control levers are not in the park brake position (park brake switches are disengaged) or the deck clutch switch is engaged the engine will stop.

The following steps are the correct procedures for starting the engine. If difficulty is encountered, contact the Hustler® Dealer in your area.

1. Before starting mower each day, perform daily pre-operation checking. (See *Safety Start Interlock System* section.)
 2. Make sure the steering control levers are in the park brake position and deck clutch switch is disengaged. Only start the engine from the operator's position.
 3. Use the choke, if the unit is equipped with one, when engine is cold, or if warm engine fails to start within 5 seconds of cranking. Avoid flooding and operate engine without choking as soon as possible.
 4. Set throttle at approximately 1/2 open position.
 5. Insert key in ignition switch and rotate full clockwise to engage starting motor. Release key when engine starts.
- IMPORTANT:** The engine starter should not be operated for periods longer than 30 seconds at a time. An interval of at least two minutes should be allowed between such cranking periods to protect the starter from overheating and burn-out.
6. Perform test to make sure safety start interlock system is operating properly. Refer to *Safety Start Interlock System* section.
 7. Allow the engine to idle a few minutes before advancing the throttle and/or engaging the deck clutch.

Stopping the Engine

Use the following procedure to shut the engine off.

1. Place the steering control levers in the park brake position.
2. Throttle the engine back to low idle, then disengage the deck clutch. Refer to the *Mower Deck Operation* section for more details.

3. Let the engine run at low idle for two minutes.
4. Rotate the ignition key counter-clockwise to the "OFF" position. Remove the key from the switch before leaving the mower.

Moving the Mower With Stalled Engine

The bypass valves on the transaxles allow the mower to be moved if the engine quits working.

WARNING ⚠

Allow the engine exhaust manifold to cool before engaging or disengaging the bypass valves. The bypass valve rods are located close to the exhaust system.

Before moving the unit, pull out on the bypass valve rod (Figure 3-7) until the notch in the rod hooks over the edge of the slot. This places the bypass valves in the disengaged position.

Place the steering control levers in the neutral position, to release the park brakes, so that the mower can be moved.

Do not tow the machine. Move it by hand or use a winch to load onto a trailer for transporting.

Secure the mower, facing forward, when transporting on another vehicle. Tie the mower down securely using straps, chains, cables, or ropes. Both front and rear straps should be directed down and outward from the machine.

IMPORTANT: Always make certain the two bypass valves are returned to their operating position before running the mower following repairs.

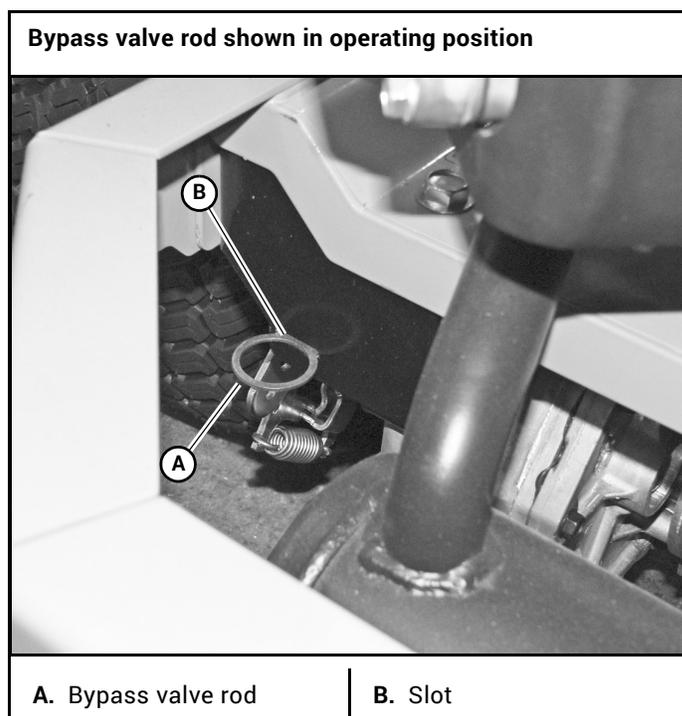


Figure 3-7