

Safety Policy for Operating the Landing Gear

1. **Park on level ground.** Avoid parking the trailer near vehicle traffic.
2. **Use Personal Protection Equipment: (edit as needed for Company/Shipper/Site requirements)**
 - a. Work Boots with good tread
 - b. Appropriate gloves
 - c. Reflective vest
 - d. Safety Glasses
 - e. Hard Hat
3. **Use the appropriate gear (Low or High)** based on the circumstance. Check the decal showing direction for raising and lowering and how to engage the gears:
 - a. **Low Gear** MUST be used anytime you are lowering or raising the trailer when the landing gear IS under load.
 - b. **High Gear** is used for lowering or raising the trailer while the landing gear is NOT under load. In other words, when **ALL** the weight of the trailer is supported by the fifth wheel.
4. **Before cranking up the landing gear**, always make sure the king pin is locked. Get under the trailer and look at the fifth wheel jaws. It is the only way to know for sure.
5. **Ensure the landing gear crank is “locked” into position in the correct gear.** You do not want the handle to wobble.
6. **Maintain a safe posture** while operating the landing gear to minimize the strain on the back and shoulders.
 - a. Posture in Low Gear:
 - i. Shoulders should be perpendicular to the trailer (i.e., the shoulders are facing the front of the trailer).
 - ii. Both hands should be on the handle while cranking.
 - iii. Feet shoulder width apart for stability
 - iv. Keep you face out of the handle swing arc (this will avoid being hit in the face or shoulder should your hand slip or tension give)
 - v. Once all the weight is removed from the leg pads, you put the landing gear in high gear.
 - b. Posture in High Gear:
 - i. Face the trailer
 - ii. Feet are shoulder width apart or in a comfortable position.
 - iii. Place one hand on the trailer for support.
 - iv. Place the other hand on the handle to crank the landing gear.
 - v. Wrap your fingers around the handle in a tight grip.
 - vi. Never “speed spin” or “speed crank.” Our company prohibits twirling the landing gear with a loose grip or one or two fingers.
7. **Always crank the handle at a slow and steady pace.** You will not save time by cranking fast.
8. **Raise the landing gear fully** and put the handle in the stowed position before each trip to limit damage and unnecessary wear and tear.

Maintenance of Landing Gear

1. Landing gear must be regularly lubricated.
2. Check equipment during pre-trip and post trip inspection. Ensure the handle is intact and there are no jagged edges or defects.
3. Report any damage or required maintenance to your supervisor or manager per company policy.

Training Video: Proper Technique for Lowering and Raising Landing Gear: <https://bit.ly/3RiDdzX>