

# HUNTING SAFETY

# tree stands

The treestand is one of the most popular pieces of hunting equipment, but they can be dangerous if used incorrectly or carelessly. Nationally, one in three hunting injuries involves a treestand. In incidents involving treestands, 82 percent of hunters were not using a fall restraint system.

**Always wear a Fall Arrest System/Full Body Harness (FAS/FBH)** meeting the Treestand Manufacturers Association standards. Single strap belts and chest harnesses are no longer the preferred device and should not be used. **Failure to use a FAS/FBH could result in serious injury or death.**

## INJURY PREVENTION

### Pre-Hunt Preparation

- Always hunt with a plan and a buddy. Before you leave home, let others know your exact hunting location, when you plan to return and who is with you.
- Always read and understand the manufacturers Warnings and Instructions before using the treestand each season.
- Always practice with the stand and FAS/FBH at ground level prior to using at elevated positions. Practice in your FAS/FBH, at ground level in the presence of a responsible adult, to experience what it feels like to hang suspended.
- Always select the proper tree for use with your treestand. Select a live straight tree that fits within the size limits recommended in your treestand instructions.

### Hunting Day Injury Prevention

- Always carry emergency signal devices such as a cell phone, walkie-talkie, whistle or flashlight on your person at all times

and within reach if you are suspended in your FAS/FBH. Carry a suspension relief device on your person.

- Always inspect the treestand, all safety devices and the FAS/FBH before each use.
- Always attach your FAS/FBH as described by the manufacturer. Failure to do so may result in suspension without the ability to recover into your stand. If you fall, remain calm and seek help immediately or implement your recovery/escape plan. If you have to hang suspended for a period of time: remain calm and exercise your legs by pushing against the tree or doing any other form of continuous motion. Prolonged suspension and failure to recover in a timely manner could result in serious injury or death.
- Do not leave the ground unless you are wearing a FAS/FBH that is properly attached to the tree. It should be worn and properly attached to the tree from the time you leave the ground till your back down.
- Always use a haul line to pull your gear and unloaded firearm or bow up to your treestand. Never climb with anything in your hands or on your back. Prior to descending, lower your gear on the opposite side of the tree.

### Remember

- Never use homemade stands or make modifications to purchased tree stands.
- Never use alcohol or other drugs if you are hunting.

For a FREE online treestand safety course that provides more detailed information visit [hunterscourse.com/treestandssafety](https://hunterscourse.com/treestandssafety)



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