

Ten Rules of Tree Stand Safety

1. Identify your personal physical limitations such as weight, agility, strength and coordination. Choose equipment and behavior that does not exceed those limitations.
2. Always wear a safety belt or fall restraint system when you attempt to climb or hunt from a tree. This includes ascending, descending and occupying your tree stand. Hunters spend hundreds of dollars on equipment, and should never cut corners on a restraint system that could save their life.
3. Read the instructions with all tree stands and safety equipment, practice putting the tree stand on a tree while standing on the ground.
4. Regularly inspect your equipment to assure it is in good condition and replace worn parts. Be especially cautious of stands that are left year round. Check for animal damage and rotten wood. Be extra cautious of any homemade stand, even if you made it yourself.
5. Always use a haul line to raise and lower your equipment.
6. If possible, don't hunt alone. If you do, leave a detailed map and carry a cell phone for emergencies.
7. When using screw in steps, make sure they go into live, solid wood and are screwed in far enough so the step rests tight against the tree. Do not use old holes from previous years and don't leave your steps in the tree year round.
8. Research the purchase of a commercial stand and carefully shop. Select one that will be safest for your physical ability, support your weight, and the conditions of where you hunt.
9. Carefully select the tree during daylight hours while looking for irregularities and angles of the tree. Practice climbing during daylight.
10. Be extra careful whenever there is rain, snow, or ice. Remember, the moment you stop respecting the stand, is when you could lose your life.