

MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

Hunting Season Safety



When you're new to hunting, prepping for your trip is an exciting time. It's easy and fun to imagine the trophy buck you might bag, the time in the great outdoors, and the psychological thrill of the hunt. But most people don't imagine the possible dangers that can befall hunters and those nearby. Hunting and firearm accidents can and do happen, so it's best to learn hunting safety precautions before you pack up your gear and hit the early dawn tree-stand. Here are a few hunting safety tips that can help save a life or keep you and others from injury.

- 1. PRATICE FIREARM SAFETY** - Many hunting accidents are due to hunters being careless with their weapons. Firearm safety should be learned well before you fire your first gun.
 - Here are the basics of firearm safety that are taught in any hunting safety course:
 - Always treat your firearm as if it was loaded.
 - Keep your safety on until you're ready to shoot.
 - Keep your finger off and away from the trigger until you're ready to fire.
 - Keep the muzzle of your gun pointed in a safe direction and never at another person.
 - Be sure of your target. Never confuse game with a person or pets.
 - Be aware of what is beyond your target. Never shoot close to another person or a dwelling.
 - Learn and memorize these firearm safety tips and preach them to fellow hunters.
- 2. KNOW YOUR WEAPON** - Whether you're hunting with a firearm or a bow, knowing your weapon inside and out is very important. Before hunting, become familiar with shooting your weapon and properly maintaining it. Firearms should be cleaned after each use. Bows — longbows, recurve, and compound bows — need to have their bow strings waxed and replaced regularly.

It's a good idea to take a firearm to a shooting range to get a good feel for the recoil and to practice aiming. Learn where your firearm safety mechanism is and how to use it. You'll also want to learn the specific types of ammo that you can use in your weapon and what type of game each works best for.
- 3. PRACTICE TREESTAND SAFETY** - When entering, sitting in, and exiting a treestand, a full-body harness should be worn. Many hunters make the mistake of removing their harness when sitting or standing in the treestand, and this is when falls can occur. Many hunters leave their treestands in place year after year, and the weather and frequent use can take their toll. Be sure to inspect your treestand at least once a year. Check the steps, the harness, and any parts that might get worn or loose.
- 4. FEW MORE TIPS** – Keep your cell phone on your person. Wear blaze orange. Alert others about your trip, what area you are hunting in and the time you are planning on getting out of the woods. Check the weather and bring safety gear. Take a Hunters safety course, it is required in most states. Hunting safety is for everyone , whether they are 16 or 60 years old.



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