

**HE Lesson Plan 7**

rev. 3/2015

## Hunting From Elevated Devices - Tree-Stands and Tree-Stand Safety

**Instructor Training Aids and References**

Commercial tree stand (Ladder, Hang On and/or Climbing) **Stands shall not to exceed 7feet from seat to ground.**

Portable Tree (WDNR approved) or suitable live tree, Climbing Devices, Safety/Life Lines, Vest type Safety Harnesses, Firearm/Bow/Crossbow, Haul Line, Dummy Ammunition

**TIME PERIOD (APPROXIMATELY):** 30 - 60 minutes

**TYPE OF LESSON**

- E.D.O.C.**  
 **LECTURE**  
 **DISCUSSION**  
 **PRACTICAL**

**OBJECTIVE(S)**

- The advantages/disadvantages and dangers associated with all types of elevated stands
- The value of fall restraint systems
- and to properly set the fall restraint systems.
- Making a firearm/bow/crossbow safe while entering/exiting an elevated stand.
- Always use a haul line to raise and lower firearms/bows/crossbows and other equipment.

**LESSON OUTLINE****ITEMS NEEDED**

**EDUCATE:** There are numerous types of tree-stands and elevated devices from which to hunt from. All have their own advantages and disadvantages.

**TREE STAND TYPES****1. Ladder Stand:**

- CON - Bulky and Heavy
- CON - Limited to certain heights
- CON - Difficult to put up
- PRO - Offers a good platform from which to shoot
- PRO - Works on most suitable trees

**2. Climbing Stand:**

- CON - Practical only on straight limbless trees
- PRO - Light weight and easy to use
- PRO - Offer their own climbing system = No steps or ladders needed

**3. Hang-On Stand:**

- CON - Can be difficult to secure to tree
- CON - Require climbing equipment
- CON - Safe once installed, but small seat/platform
- PRO - Useable on most suitable trees
- PRO - Light weight and very portable

**4. Tri-Pod Stand:**

- CON - Bulky and Heavy
- CON - Need to use vehicle to carry to hunting site
- PRO - Useful where no/inadequate trees are present

**5. Home-Made Stand** (varieties of the list above)

- CON - Require a high degree of maintenance
- CON - Typically will permanently damage trees = Illegal on public land
- PRO - Usually less expensive
- PRO - Can be made to your specifications

Tree-Stand Guide

Examples of each type of tree stand if you have them

Use of screws or nails to attach to tree is illegal on public lands

<p><b>6. Pop Up Blinds</b> – Show and inform Only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CON - Typically camouflaged, should use orange during gun season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Blaze orange required on State property during gun deer season.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CON - Typically less safe shots (less backstops) than tree stands</li> <li>• PRO - Light Weight and easy to carry</li> <li>• PRO - No danger of falling out of tree</li> </ul>	<p>Pop Up Blind</p>
<p><b>CLIMBING DEVICES</b> – Discuss Advantages and Disadvantages of each type</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climbing sticks of various types and systems to secure to trees</li> <li>• Ladder Sections</li> <li>• Screw In and Strap on Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Screw In damage trees and are illegal on most public property</li> <li>b. Metal steps tend to be brittle and slippery in cold weather</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Examples of Climbing Devices</p>
<p><b>FALL RESTRAINT SYSTEMS</b> – Discuss Advantages and Disadvantages</p> <p><b>STATISTICS SHOW 1 of 3 HUNTERS WHO USE TREE STANDS WILL FALL. MANY ARE SERIOUSLY INJURED AND EVEN KILLED.</b></p> <p><b>Most Falls Occur While Climbing Into and Out Of TREE STANDS.</b></p> <p><b><u>DON'T BE ONE OF THOSE HUNTERS.</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ALWAYS use a Fall Restraint Harness of some kind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Body Harness</li> <li>• Vest Harness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Climbing Safety Strap (Lineman’s Strap)</li> <li>b. Suspension Relief Foot Loop Strap (If equipped)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Safety/Life Lines (ground to stand/stand to ground protection) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. “New” safety technique for tree stand safety borrowed from mountain/rock climbing practices.</li> <li>b. Protects from falls while climbing up to and down from the tree stand.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Examples of Fall Restraint Harnesses and Systems</p> <p>Lifeline products</p>
<p><b>GENERAL TREE STAND SAFTEY</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Always follow the tree stand manufacturer recommendations for stand assembly and placement/use on trees or similar structure.</li> <li>2. Always use a Safety/Life Line while Climbing in and out of the stand. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides ground to stand &amp; stand to ground protection.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Always use 3 points of contact when climbing into or out of the stand. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hands 1 foot or 2 feet 1 hand.</li> <li>• Discuss Reasons for 3 points of Contact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Steps/Rungs Slippery or Break</li> <li>○ 1 of 3 Hunters who use stands fall out of the stands</li> <li>○ Most falls occur climbing in to or out of a stand.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Always use a Haul Line for ALL of your equipment.</li> <li>5. Always unload your firearm/bow/crossbow when raising or lowering it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unload crossbows by removing the bolt. Crossbow will likely need to remain cocked when climbing into or out of a stand.</li> <li>• Unload muzzleloaders by removing the primer, percussion cap or powder from the pan.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Tree Stand Safety Guide</p> <p>Haul Line Types</p>

**DEMONSTRATE:** Instructors will have a ladder stand top ready and set up with Vest Type Safety Harness, haul line(s), Safety/Life Line, and choice of firearm/bow/crossbow, dummy ammo, blunt arrows/bolts, Instructors will then perform the following steps for the demonstration:

1. Unload your firearm/bow/crossbow and attach it to your haul line
  - When possible position the haul line so firearm/bow/crossbow are suspended in air and not laying on the ground
  - Generally cannot do this when using climbing tree stands
  - Firearm/Bow/Crossbow should be pointed down, horizontal, or in a case
  - Also use haul line(s) for backpacks and/or other bulky equipment
2. Put on Vest Type Safety Harness over hunting clothes
  - Demonstrate proper fit
  - Demonstrate Lineman's strap (if part of harness)
  - Demonstrate suspension relief foot loop strap (if part of harness)
3. Attach safety strap from Vest Type safety harness to the Safety/Life Line
  - Demonstrate how prusik knot functions
  - Often useful to have a second prusik knot on the Safety/Life Line
    - a) Clip equipment to loop
    - b) Foot loop in case of fall
  - Be sure to tie off Safety/Life Line to bottom of tree or stand so that prusik knot(s) will slide up and down the Safety/Life Line.
4. Using 3 points of contact climb into your tree-stand
  - 2 hands 1 foot or 2 feet 1 hand
5. Once in the stand immediately attach your safety harness to tree strap
  - Some newer harnesses have 2 straps so the hunter doesn't need to unclip from the prusik knot to attach to tree strap
  - **A Properly Set Tree Strap to Safety Harness Connection:**
    - Will allow only 3-4 inches of slack from the seated position
    - Will prevent a fall due to a momentary loss of balance
    - Will stop a fall in a few inches so the hunter can return to the stand
6. Haul your firearm, bow and equipment up into the stand using a haul line(s)
7. Load the firearm or nock an arrow/bolt
8. To climb down, reverse the order above

**\*\*\*ASK STUDENTS IF THEY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS\*\*\***

- - - - - **INTERNET FIELD DAY STOPS HERE** - - - - -

**OBSERVE:** Observe the student perform the above demonstration procedure

1. Students Perform the 8 steps of the demonstration
2. Each student is to SAY each action before performing

**CONGRATULATE:** Give praise throughout and at the conclusion to the group.

**INSTRUCTORS NOTE:**

1. Tree Stand Seat must not be more than 7 feet off the ground
2. Watch for MUZZLE CONTROL
3. Coach students whenever necessary for proper procedure.
4. Bow Hunter Safety courses should include a demonstration of the proper installation and safe use of the common types of stands. (Ladder, Hang On, Climbing and Pop Up Blinds)

Read 1 – 8 from the lesson plan

Hunter Safety courses: If time allows have some or all of the students perform the 8 steps.

Bow Hunter Safety courses all students should perform all 8 steps