

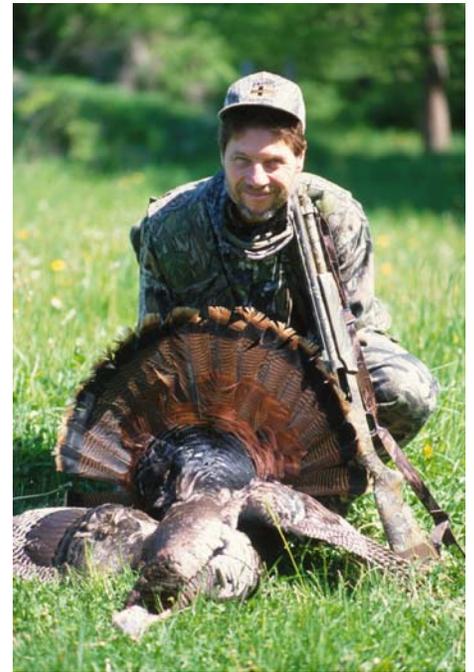
Turkey Hunting Safety Tips

If you're heading out in the woods for turkey hunting, be extra careful because you're dressed in camouflage. Most turkey hunting shooting accidents occur because one hunter mistakes another hunter as game.

It's a good idea to wear a blaze orange cap or gloves while walking. And find a hunting spot that allows you to rest your back against a tree or some other object that is as wide as your shoulders. This helps protect you from not only an errant shot, but from the good vision of the turkey.

Follow these simple rules for a safe and successful hunt.

- Use gobble calls only to locate a tom, not to attract one. Some other hunter might think you're a turkey.
- Keep hands and head camouflaged when calling.
- Never stalk a turkey and don't try to approach closer than 100 yards to a gobbler.
- Select a calling site from which you can see at least 40 yards in all directions.
- Never carry or move an uncovered decoy.
- Follow the four rules of basic firearm safety – TABK.



T = Treat every firearm as if it is loaded. Never assume a firearm is unloaded and never treat it that way, even if you watch as it is unloaded. Make it a habit to treat guns like they are loaded all the time.

A = Always point the muzzle in a safe direction. About one third of all hunting incidents are self inflicted injuries. That means the muzzle was pointed at some part of the hunter's body. A safe direction is a direction where the bullet will travel and harm no one in the event of an unwanted discharge. There are no accidental discharges with firearms, only unwanted discharges.

B = Be certain of your target and what's beyond it. Positive target identification is a must. To shoot at something you only think is a legal target is gambling. In the case of human injury, that means gambling with human life. You must be absolutely certain and correct in judgment before deciding to shoot. Otherwise, it's reckless behavior. In addition to identifying the target, a hunter must know that a safe backstop for their bullet is present in every shooting situation. We don't always hit our target, and, in some cases, the bullet passes through the target. A safe backstop guarantees that no one will get hurt.

K = Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot. If a hunter stumbles with a firearm in one hand and nothing in the other, whatever that person does with their free hand will automatically happen with the hand holding the gun. If a finger is inside the trigger guard, that hand is likely going to close around the pistol grip of the gun and on the trigger causing an unwanted discharge.



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