



# SAFETY TIPS

## 2022 HUNTER'S SAFETY

Fall seasons are generally associated with Hunting Season. The thrill of hunting can be exhilarating yet also dangerous if we are not extremely careful. Every year, Marines and Sailors are injured or worse, in hunting mishaps. Regardless of what game you're hunting, the following Tips are offered to ensure your hunting experience is conducted safely:

### SAFETY COURSE:

- Take a local Hunter's Safety Course and obtain a valid hunting license/permit. It's the law!

### HUNTING SAFETY:

- Tree stands are a great way to enhance line of sight while hunting, but if using a tree-stand wear a full-body safety harness and maintain three points of contact at all times. Securely attach stand to a healthy tree. Don't use tree-stands if you're tired, consumed alcohol, or have taken medication which could impair vision/judgment. Never hurry up or down tree stands. Practice with new tree stand before departing on trip. Read and follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Hunt with a friend or in familiar areas. Inspect hunting equipment before use. Wear eye and ear protection when shooting. Remain vigilant to changing conditions.
- Check local or state laws for 'Hunter/Blaze Orange' clothing requirements. Avoid wearing white or brown.
- Familiarize yourself with hunting area, terrain, facilities, and identify tree stand sites in the daylight. Identify emergency actions in the event you get lost or lose communication.
- Pack a first aid kit to include bandages, a tourniquet, antiseptic and scissors. Add water, cell phone, whistle, flashlight, rain gear, and snacks.



### WEAPONS SAFETY:

- Always adhere to the tenants of firearm safety: (1) Never point a gun at a person; (2) Keep finger off trigger until ready to fire; (3) Treat all guns as if they were loaded; (4) Know your target, what lies beyond and in between the target.
- Inspect all hunting equipment before leaving for the field.
- Avoid climbing a tree or jumping over a fence with a loaded gun.
- Never shoot at sounds or movements.

**DID YOU KNOW:** According to the Fishing and Wildlife Service, there are more than 15 million registered hunters in the U.S. September is Tree Stand Safety Awareness Month. Falls (from tree stands) occur approximately 6,000 times per year - outpacing firearms mishaps nearly 6 to 1; 86% of Tree Stand falls are due to not being buckled in. Most hunting injuries involve males (91%), and occur during deer season (Oct-Dec).

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## HAVE A PLAN:

- Check weather forecasts before leaving for hunting. Check trip route and at hunting site. Pack sufficient clothing to be prepared for all types of weather. Dress in layers. Wear proper shoes.
- Inform someone of your planned route, hunting site location and estimated return time.
- Know the laws and game limits where you will be hunting. Obtain permission from landowner if hunting on private property. Clean hunting site before leaving the area.
- If using an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) to haul gear and kill, consider taking an ATV safety class.

## HUNTING RESOURCES:

- ❖ <https://www.hunter-ed.com> (Hunter's Safety Courses)
- ❖ [www.huntinfo.org](http://www.huntinfo.org) (Where To Hunt In Your State)
- ❖ <https://gooutdoorsvirginia.com/> (VA Wildlife Resources)
- ❖ <https://www.ncwildlife.org/> (NC Wildlife Resources)
- ❖ <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/hunting.html> (SC Natural Resources)
- ❖ <https://svia.org/> ATV Special Vehicle Institute of America Safety Course, or call 1-800-887-2887 for local classes
- ❖ <https://lejeune.recaccess.com/> (MCB-CL/MCAS-NR Rec)



**HUNTING MISHAPS:** The following MARFORCOM mishaps occurred while hunting. Consider what actions could have been taken to alleviate them from occurring.

- PFC hunting, accidentally shot himself in left foot with .20 gauge shotgun, required surgery.
- Cpl suffered a gunshot wound to lower right leg while hunting on family's property.
- SVM misplaced footing on tree stand, fell ten feet to the ground and fractured an ankle.
- Sailor fell 18' from tree stand. Was initially harnessed, but unhooked to fix the upper stand. Broke multiple ribs and dislocated shoulder.
- Marine tripped on a branch while tracking a deer and stabbed himself in the hand.
- Marine was at a game dressing area skinning a deer. The knife used unlocked and shut, severely cutting a finger. Laceration required multiple sutures.



**SEASONAL SAFETY:** Daylight Saving Time (DST) ends Sunday, 6 November. Be sure to adjust clocks "fall-back" one hour on Saturday evening before going to bed. Expect to see an increase in deer near roadways. Don't veer for deer, instead stay in your lane and brake firmly with both hands on the steering wheel. During fall season, sun angles are lower and can create significant glare. Wear sunglasses that omit glare. Driving during the fall may result in an increase of nighttime driving. Plan accordingly.

**RISK MANAGEMENT (RM):** Every Marine is responsible for breaking the chain of events that leads to a mishap. Incorporate 'In-Depth' or 'Deliberate' planning into your hunting activities. Apply RM principles to all hunting related activities. Exercise discipline in avoiding needless risks and their consequences. Hunt with a "Battle Buddy". Maintain heightened situational awareness. Make smart decisions and continue to watch out for one another.

Manage the Risk



Protect the Force