Every hunting season, hunters are killed or seriously injured as a result of falls related to the use of hunting treestands. From 2005 through 2007, 41 treestand-related deaths were reported to CPSC, and CPSC staff estimates about 19,000 treestand-related injuries during the same period. Many incidents occur while hunters are stepping onto or from the treestand’s platform.

Hunters of all ages and experience levels should use a full-body harness and follow CPSC’s safety tips when using a hunting treestand.

⇒ Always use a Treestand Manufacturers’ Association (TMA) approved full-body harness in accordance with the manufacturer’s instruction.

⇒ Do NOT use a single-strap or waist-type harness, which can cause strangulation in the event of a fall.

⇒ Use the harness during ascent and descent from your treestand. Most falls occur when hunters step onto or from their treestands.

⇒ Prolonged suspension can result in trauma or death; so, carry a cell phone or other means of emergency communication.

⇒ Inspect your treestand and harness for signs of wear or damage before each use. The harness should be replaced after a fall has occurred.

⇒ Never climb while carrying gear, which could affect your balance. Use a haul line to pull up and lower your gear.

⇒ Let others know in advance your exact hunting location and when you plan to return.