



CPSC Safety Alert

Hunting Treestands and Harnesses

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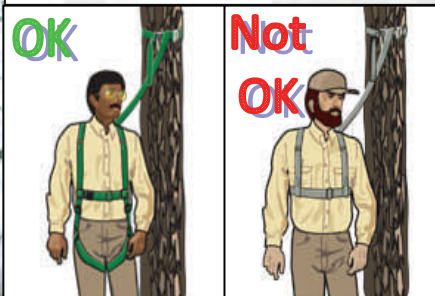
Every hunting season, hunters are killed or seriously injured as a result of falls related to the use of hunting treestands. From 2005 through 2007, 41 treestand-related deaths were reported to CPSC, and CPSC staff estimates about 19,000 treestand-related injuries during the same period. Many incidents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



Most treestand-related incidents can be prevented with proper use of a full-body harness.



A full-body harness (left) has straps around the waist, legs and shoulders. A single-strap chest or waist-type harness (right) is dangerous and has caused death due to strangulation.