2018 TREE STAND SAFETY STATISTICS

Follow the ABC’s of tree stand safety:
Always remove and inspect your tree stand before use
Buckle on your full body harness securely every time
Connect to the tree before your feet leave the ground

Description of tree stand incidents:

Thanks to our Environmental Conservation Officers for thorough investigations of each incident.

FORMAT FOR 2018 DESCRIPTIONS:
Date (mm/dd) - followed by County and a brief description based on initial report.

10/25 - Chemung. No harness. Home-made tree stand. Slipped while entering the stand. Victim sustained internal injuries to his liver, kidneys and several broken bones. Age 68.


11/18 - Cortland. No harness. Ladder stand. Victim slipped entering stand in the morning and got his foot stuck in the ladder as he fell, was knocked unconscious, and remained unconscious and trapped by his boot at the base of the stand until located that evening. He received a concussion and frostbite to his right toe. Age 53.

11/29 - Monroe. No harness. Climbing tree stand. Victim was descending a large tree and let out cable to lower the seat portion and let out too much causing it to fall. His feet remained strapped to the base, and he hung 40 minutes until help arrived. Victim sustained a severe left ankle break and a sprained right ankle. Age 64.


Please Note: Tree stand injuries are under-reported, DEC is not typically notified when tree stand falls occur.

New York is among many other states that have drastically reduced deaths during firearms seasons due to a hunter safety curriculum that stresses firearm safety. Recently however, deaths from tree stand falls have begun to increase.

A study recently completed in Wisconsin found that 84% of firearm hunters and 91% of archery hunters used elevated stands. Of those, ONLY 33% of archery hunters and 23% of firearm hunters used safety harnesses.

Tree stand safety has become a regular part of the hunter education course required of first-time hunters in New York. Tree stand incidents are becoming a major cause of hunting related injuries. The proper use of tree stands, and tree stand safety equipment, will help to prevent these injuries and fatalities.

2018 figures are completed from preliminary reports and do not capture all tree stand incidents that occurred statewide in New York. DEC began tracking tree stand incidents in 2017.

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Join New York’s Instructor Team!

NYSDEC Hunter Education
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4800
Phone Toll-Free 1-888-HUNT-ED2

Website: www.dec.ny.gov
(http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7860.html)

Law Enforcement Toll-free 24-hour ECO Dispatch:
1-877-457-5680

How Hard will you Hit the Ground?
You Choose . . .
(Ex. 180 lb. hunter falling at 32.1 ft/s² striking the ground)

With a full-body harness system properly attached
YOU DON’T HIT THE GROUND!

20,597 lbs. (10.2 tons)
30 ft. @ 30 mph (1.37 sec)

13,731 lbs. (6.9 tons)
20 ft. @ 24.5 mph (1.12 sec)

10,983 lbs. (5.5 tons)
16 ft. @ 21.9 mph (0.8 sec)

8,237 lbs. (4.1 tons)
12 ft. @ 18.4 mph (0.6 sec)

Connected 100% of the time.
Always use a full-body harness and a life-line or lineman’s belt.

Image created by Glen Mayhew and provided by the Tree Stand Safety Awareness Foundation