

# ELEVATED HUNTING INCIDENTS

## 2022



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

	2020	2021	2022	5yr avg.
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9.6</b>
Fatal -no full-body harness	1	1	3	1
Fatal -w/ harness but not attached to tree	0	0	0	0
Fatal -w/ harness attached to tree	0	0	1	1
Non-fatal -no full body harness	10	8	8	7.2
Non-fatal -w/ harness but not attached to tree	2	0	1	1
Non-fatal-w/ harness attached to tree	0	0	0	0
<b>Type of Stand</b>				
Climbing tree stand	4	1	1	1.8
Hang-on tree stand	2	1	6	2.2
Ladder stand	7	6	3	3.6
Tower/tri-pod stand	0	0	1	0.2
Home-made tree stand	0	2	2	1.8

### FOLLOW THE ABC'S OF TREE STAND SAFETY:

- A**lways remove and inspect your tree stand before use
- B**uckle on your full body harness securely every time
- C**onnect to the tree before your feet leave the ground

### Description of elevated hunting incidents:

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

### FORMAT FOR 2022 DESCRIPTIONS:

Date (mm/dd) -followed by County. and a brief description based on initial report. Fatalities are listed in red.

**10/1 - Tompkins. Fatality. Harness. Hang-on stand. Victim fell from stand after suffering cardiac arrest. Buckle attached to tree broke, causing them to fall to the ground. Age 82. Hunting experience: 60 yrs.**

**10/15 - Jefferson. No harness. Hang-on stand. Cable broke on lower platform, causing victim to fall from platform injuring ribs and sternum. Age 61. Hunting experience: 45 yrs.**

**10/19 - Orleans. No harness. Hang-on stand. Victim was transitioning from a ladder to the stand when the platform gave way. The fall broke their leg and two vertebrae. Age 38. Hunting experience: 22 yrs.**

**10/29 - Wyoming. No harness. Ladder stand. Victim broke both arms when the stand they were removing kinked in half causing them to fall. Age 45. Hunting experience: 13 yrs.**

**11/1 - Schoharie. Harness. Hang-on stand. Strap on the stand failed when victim stepped on platform prior to attaching harness to tree. Fall caused head and chest injuries. Age 53. Hunting experience: 40 yrs.**

**11/9 - Tompkins. No harness. Hang-on stand. Victim was holding a branch that broke when exiting stand falling 25 ft. Victim was airlifted to hospital with a spinal cord injury. Age 30. Hunting experience: 10 yrs.**

**11/13 - Franklin. No harness. Hang-on stand. Victim fell asleep and fell from stand, injuring their femur and pelvis. Age 18. Hunting experience: 6 yrs.**

**11/19 - Delaware. Fatality. No harness. Homemade stand. Victim fell 15ft from a homemade stand, causing fatal injuries. Age 60. Hunting experience: 40+ yrs.**

2022 figures are completed from preliminary reports and do not capture all elevated hunting incidents occurring statewide in New York. Tree stand injuries are underreported; 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 and elevated stand falls have begun to increase.

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 the proper use of a fall-arrest system and a full body harness, will help to prevent these injuries and fatalities.

**11/20** – Ulster. No harness. Ladder stand. Victim fell while exiting stand, suffering a broken back and ribs. Age 87. Hunting experience: 50+ yrs.

**11/24** – Cayuga. No harness. Ladder stand. Victim was entering stand when their rifle caught on blind cover. Victim fell while trying to free it and broke their hip, femur, pelvis and several vertebrae. Age 64. Hunting experience: 50 yrs.

**11/25** – Cayuga. No harness. Climbing stand. Victim fell when the traction strap broke on base of climber and victim fell fracturing vertebrae and breaking an ankle. Age 36. Hunting experience: 22 yrs.

**11/26** – Cayuga. Fatality. No harness. Hang-on stand. Victim fell 18 ft from their stand causing a fatal head injury. Age 33. Hunting experience: 21 yrs.

**11/26** – Cortland. Fatality. No harness. Homemade stand. Victim fell 25 ft from their stand breaking bones in their legs, pelvis, back and causing internal injuries. Age 58. Hunting experience: 35 yrs.



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

**Join New York's Instructor Team!**

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation | Hunter Education**

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Phone Toll-Free: 1-888-HUNT-ED2 | Law Enforcement Toll-free 24-hour ECO Dispatch: 1-877-457-5680

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