



2018 TREE STAND SAFETY STATISTICS



	2018	2017
TOTAL INCIDENTS	5	12
Fatal - no full-body harness	0	5
Fatal - with harness but not attached to tree	0	1
Fatal - with harness attached to tree	0	0
Non-fatal - no full body harness	5	3
Non-fatal - with harness but not attached to tree	0	3
Non-fatal - with harness attached to tree	0	0
TYPE OF STAND		
Climbing tree stand	1	2
Hang-on tree stand	0	4
Ladder stand	1	2
Tower/tri-pod stand	0	0
Home-made tree stand	3	4

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.

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.

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.

11/17 - Greene. No harness. Home-made tree stand. Hunter fell out of stand when a 2x4 broke. Victim sustained a compression fracture to his spine. Age 66.

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.

12/6 - Wayne. No harness. Home-made tree stand. Victim slipped while exiting stand and fell 11 feet. Victim sustained injuries to his spine. Age 78.

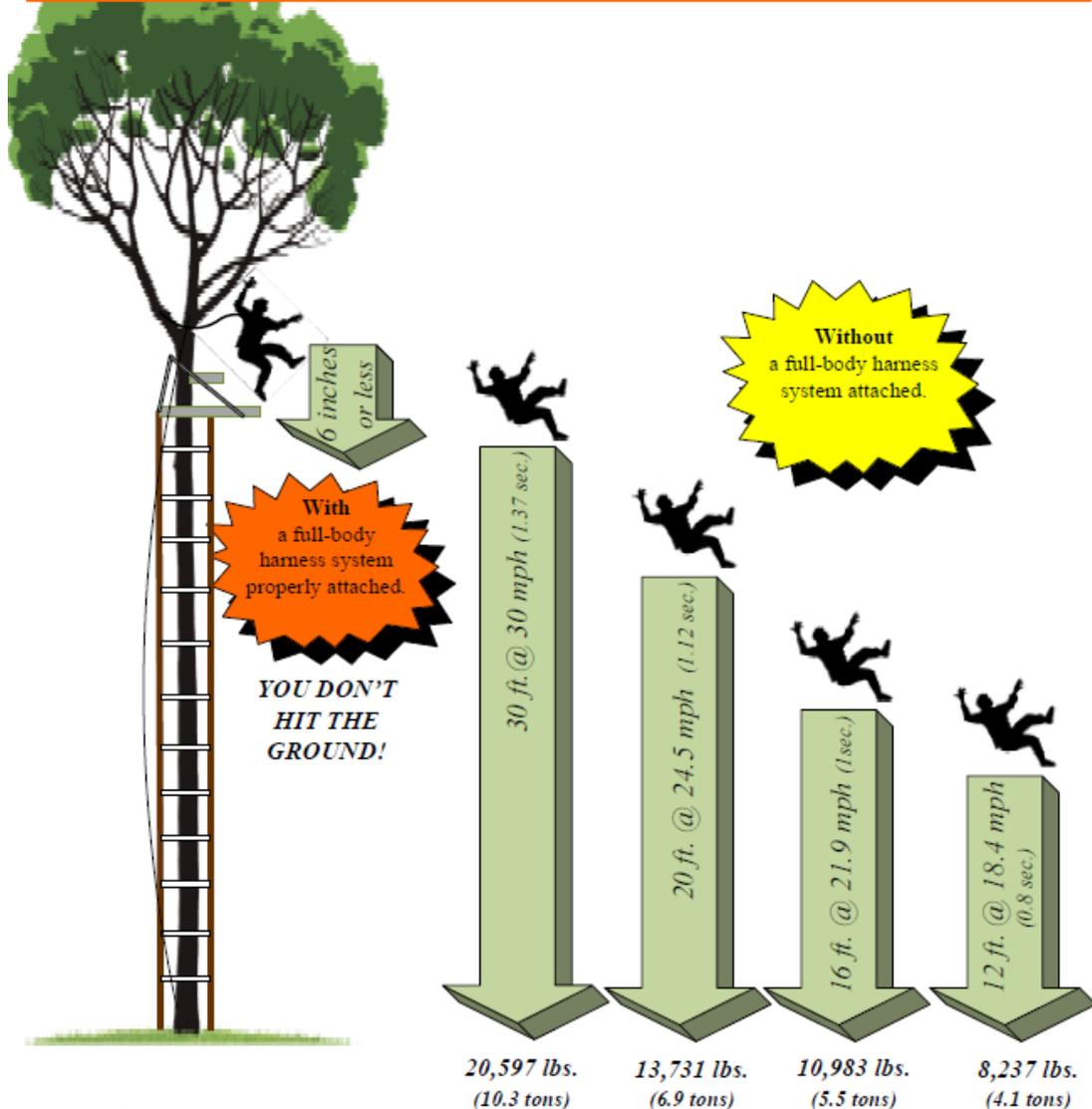
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Albany, NY 12233-4800
Phone Toll-Free 1-888-HUNT-ED2

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)



Created by Glen Mayhew

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