



2019 TREE STAND SAFETY STATISTICS



	2017	2018	2019
TOTAL INCIDENTS	12	5	7
Fatal - no full-body harness	5	0	0
Fatal – w/ harness but not attached to tree	1	0	0
Fatal – w/ harness attached to tree	0	0	0
Non-fatal - no full body harness	3	5	5
Non-fatal – w/ harness but not attached to tree	3	0	2
Non-fatal – w/ harness attached to tree	0	0	0
TYPE OF STAND			
Climbing tree stand	2	1	2
Hang-on tree stand	4	0	2
Ladder stand	2	1	1
Tower/tri-pod stand	0	0	0
Home-made tree stand	4	3	2

2019 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 2019 DESCRIPTIONS:
Date (mm/dd) - followed by County and a brief description based on initial report.

08/25 - Genesee. No harness. Hang-on stand. Victim fell when old wooden steps gave way. Victim sustained a broken femur. Age 47.

10/11 - Cortland. No harness. Climbing tree stand. Victim fell while ascending the tree, sustaining several injuries to his back. Age 42.

10/14 - Orleans. No harness. Home-made tree stand. Victim fell while ascending and his leg was impaled by a screw in step. Age 27.

11/05 - Cortland. Harness. Climbing tree stand. Victim was ascending tree and reached his desired height. Began to attach harness when the cable to the base of the climbing tree stand released and dropped him 17 ft. to the ground. Victim sustained internal injuries and fractured vertebrae. Age 42.

11/08 - Livingston. No harness. Home-made tree stand. Fell while ascending due to the poor condition of the stand. Victim broke both wrists, ribs, fractured vertebrae and sustained internal injuries. Age 79.

11/23 - Wayne. No harness. Hang-on tree stand. Fell when the straps to the stand gave way due to the stand being left out the previous season. Victim sustained fractured vertebrae. Age 54.

12/01 - Genesee. Harness. Ladder stand. Victim unhooked harness to descend the stand and slipped on the icy steps. Victim sustained broken ribs, a concussion and internal bleeding. Age 52.

Join New York's Instructor Team!

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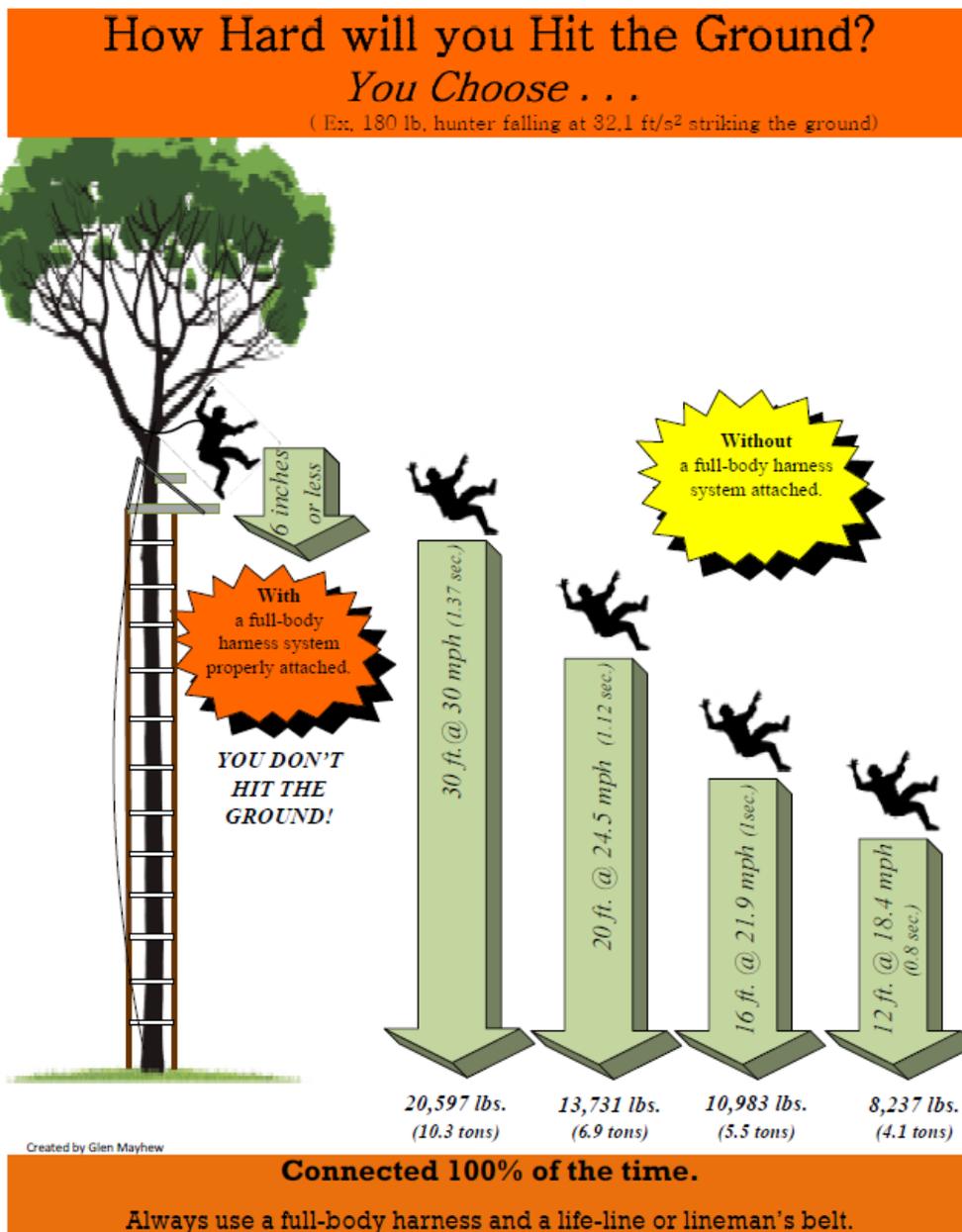


Image created by Glen Mayhew and provided by the Tree Stand Safety Awareness Foundation