In the Hunt

• Be sure the stand is level at the height you wish to hunt.

• Always stand and move slowly so you don’t lose your balance.

• If the weather takes a turn for the worse, get out of your stand. High winds can make the stand unstable, and rain, snow and sleet will make the stand extremely slippery.

• If you get drowsy, get out of the stand. Many falls are results of hunters falling asleep.

• Do not take your blaze orange off during deer season once you’re in the stand. Hunter orange is required even inside a box stand.

• If you do fall, don’t panic. Try to determine any injuries before getting up. Check for spinal injuries by wiggling your feet and legs. Check for any broken bones and cuts.

One of the most effective ways to hunt Arkansas deer is from a treestand. The hardwoods providing acorns and hickory nuts to the deer also furnish the perfect vantage point for hunters.
By climbing into a stand, the hunter is out of the deer’s line of sight and has a much better view of his surroundings.

However, most deer hunting injuries reported every year are results of hunters falling from their stands. And to make matters worse, a few simple precautions could prevent almost every treestand injury or fatality reported. The Treestand Manufacturers’ Association confirms one out of every three hunters eventually will take a spill from their stand. And, even though it may not seem like a long drop, a 20-foot fall can be fatal.

**Your Safety System**

Always wear a full-body harness, even when climbing into your stand or ascending with a climbing treestand. A standard safety belt is better than nothing, but a harness will distribute your weight evenly and hold you securely. If you do use a safety belt, be sure to wear it around your chest. A belt at your waist can cause you to turn upside-down while hanging.

Always use a cord to raise and lower all hunting equipment to and from your stand. Make sure all firearms are unloaded and all broadheads are in a covered quiver before climbing.

Always tell a dependable person where you’ll be hunting and when you’ll return. If you’re injured and can’t get out of the woods, someone will know where to look for you.

**Planning for the Stand**

- Inspect your stand before and after every use. Check it for loose nuts and bolts and replace worn chains or straps. Never use a stand you have not inspected thoroughly.
- Practice setting up your stand before the hunting season. Be familiar with your stand before you go to the woods and try to set it up in the dark.
- Choose a healthy, mature tree for your stand. Steer clear of trees with dead limbs that could fall on your stand.

- If you build your own stands, be sure the wood shows no signs of rotting or cracks. Also check all nails and make sure they are secure.
- Pay attention to a manufactured stand’s weight limits. Never overload your stand.