Obey all hunting laws and insist that other hunters around you do the same.

When turkey hunting, always think and act defensively. Never let the excitement of the hunt cloud your judgment; turkey hunting is not a competitive sport.

Assume every sound you hear is being made by another hunter. Even if you are the only one with permission to hunt on the land, you may not be alone. Once you pull the trigger, you can’t take back the shot.

“Value the hunting experience and appreciate the beauty of the wild turkey”
– National Wild Turkey Federation (A Turkey Hunter’s Code of Conduct)
Turkey Hunting Safety

Turkey hunting can be one of the most exciting outdoor experiences, but it can be dangerous when hunters don’t practice safety in their sport. Knowing the rules and using common sense will continue to make this sport exciting for everyone.

Dress

Wear complete camouflage. Partial camouflage may reveal just enough to look like a turkey. Wear camouflage gloves, boots and face masks. Camouflage your gun as well.

Never wear red, white or blue clothing, even socks or undergarments. These colors are found on wild turkeys and could cause hunters to mistake you for game.

Wear blaze orange when moving through the woods. This will identify you as a hunter and not a wild turkey.

A headlamp or flashlight may also be good for early morning hunts.

Calling

Use a gobble call sparingly during spring hunts. Other hunters are listening for this sound.

Choose an open area that offers a clear view. Full camouflage will conceal you without heavy cover.

When calling, choose a backrest as wide as your shoulders and taller than your head. Not only will it offer concealment, it will protect you from hunters who may sneak up behind you.

Signaling to Other Hunters

When a hunter approaches, call out in a clear voice to inform them of your position. Waving, whistling or making turkey calls may cause a hunter to mistake you for a turkey.

Decoys

Place decoys where you are out of the direct line of fire should another hunter think it is a turkey. Never place your decoy uphill from your position or shoot uphill toward your target. The hill can block your view of the target’s background. When on the move, cover the decoy with camouflage or blaze orange, so it will not be mistaken for live game.

Stalking

Never stalk a wild turkey. Movement or sounds could be another hunter. Let the turkey come to you. Always fully identify the target before pulling the trigger.

Taking Home the Prize

Pack your bird in a blaze orange game bag. This will prevent other hunters from mistaking your turkey for a live bird.