

## Hunters: Take a Stand for Tree Stand Safety

Written by

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According to North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission hunter safety coordinator Capt. Chris Huebner, most hunting accidents involve tree stands. This season, take precautions, he says.

Wear a full body harness, use a rope to raise and lower a bow, unloaded gun or other equipment, once you are safely position in a tree stand. Know how the tree stand works and practice using it at low heights before you go hunting. Check all belts, chains and attachment cords before use, if the tree stand has been in place for any length of time. Never climb with a firearm or bow, Huebner warns. Do not select a decaying, leaning or slipper-bark tree for your tree stand. Huebner recommends avoiding using a stand in rain, snow or icy conditions. The Commission recommends against using homemade tree stands, especially anything of wood-and-nail construction. For additional hunting safety information, visit [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) or call (919) 707-0031.