



# Standard Practice for Treestand Instructions<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2123; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice provides guidance for providing user instructions for treestands.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

F2337 Test Method for Treestand Fall Arrest System

F3249 Specification for Treestands, Climbing Sticks, and Tripod or Tower Stands

## 3. Terminology

3.1 The terminology and definitions in the referenced documents are applicable to this practice.

3.2 *Definitions:*

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.18 on Treestands.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3.2.1 *backbar or V-bar, n*—the adjustable component of a climbing treestand or handclimber that engages the tree to provide support. The backbar may be rigid or flexible.

3.2.2 *climbing stick, n*—a device to assist climbing a tree primarily to a fixed position treestand. A structure that is secured to the tree and allows the user to support his weight and climb to the desired height on the tree.

3.2.3 *climbing treestand, n*—a treestand that provides both the means to ascend the tree, and allow the user to remain at a desired elevation.

3.2.4 *handclimber, or climbing aid, n*—a device to assist climbing with a climbing treestand. A structure that allows the user to support his weight when lifting a climbing treestand with his legs.

3.2.5 *ladder treestand, n*—a treestand that consists of a ladder with an attached platform and is secured to the tree at the elevation where the platform is located.

3.2.5.1 *Discussion*—The ladder treestand may be secured to the tree at other locations and has steps that are used to reach the platform or hunting position.

3.2.6 *non-climbing, fixed position or hang-on treestand, n*—a treestand that is secured to the tree at the elevation where it is used.

3.2.6.1 *Discussion*—The user usually ascends the tree by some means and then lifts the treestand to the desired position and secures it for use.

3.2.7 *platform, n*—the horizontal structural area of a treestand on which the user stands or places his feet, or both.

3.2.8 *treestand, n*—a device designed to be affixed to a tree or its branches so as to permit an individual to sit or stand thereon for the purpose of attaining an elevated position from which to observe, photograph or hunt.

3.2.9 *tripod or tower stand, n*—a tripod or tower stand (free standing platform) is constructed to be self-supporting and is not designed to be secured to a tree.

3.2.10 *suspension relief device, n*—a device to allow relief of a person's weight on the lower extremities if suspended in a harness.

3.2.10.1 *Discussion*—The device is to help maintain circulation in the legs and help prevent suspension trauma (blood pooling).

#### 4. Summary of Practice

4.1 This practice provides minimum guidelines for instructions for treestands, climbing sticks (continuous and sectional), tripods, and towers, particularly for quality assurance and adequacy of safety.

#### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 This practice is provided to develop and maintain uniformity in practices for instructions for treestands, climbing sticks (continuous and sectional), tripods, and towers, particularly with regard to quality assurance and safety.

5.2 It is emphasized that the use of these practices will not alter the validity of data determined with specific tests related to other standards.

#### 6. Procedure

6.1 It is recommended that manufacturers follow the methods of developing instructions so described herein. When unusual or special conditions require instructions or information not covered herein, the manufacturer shall be responsible for their development to assure adequate information for the user.

6.2 All user instructions shall be in English, and included with each unit.

6.2.1 In addition to model specific written instructions, Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) or other digital media equivalent shall provide non-model specific video instructions and safety warnings with each unit treestand to include ladder treestands, non-climbing (fixed position or hang-on) treestands, climbing sticks (continuous and sectional), climbing treestands, tripods, and towers and must fully address the topics stated in 6.3 – 6.6.

6.2.2 Video instructions for harnesses that are separately furnished for a treestand (after market) in accordance with Test Method F2337 shall provide Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) or other digital media equivalent with each unit harness which include the same topics/scenes as treestands stated in 6.2.1.

##### 6.3 Selection of Content:

6.3.1 Initial, basic safety topics/scenes for written and video instructions shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

6.3.1.1 General treestand, tripod, and tower safety topics/scenes.

6.3.1.2 The manufacturer's name and address.

6.3.1.3 The unit model identification.

6.3.1.4 The unit weight limit.

6.3.1.5 When hunting from, installing, or removing a treestand, tripod, or tower, falls can occur any time after leaving the ground causing injury or death.

6.3.1.6 When using, installing, or removing a treestand, always wear a fall arrest system (FAS) comprising a full body harness at all times after leaving the ground. You must stay connected at all times after leaving the ground while using climbing treestands, and while using, installing, or removing hang-on treestands. Single safety belts and chest harnesses are

no longer allowed and shall never be used. When using, installing, or removing a treestand, if you are not wearing a full body harness properly attached to the tree that is protecting you from a fall, do not leave the ground.

6.3.1.7 Read and understand all of the manufacturer's Warnings and Instructions and use all safety devices provided by the manufacturer. Contact the manufacturer for any questions. Failure to do so could result in injury or death.

6.3.1.8 Never exceed the total weight limit of the treestand, tripod, or tower.

6.3.1.9 Never use, install, or remove a treestand, tripod, or tower during inclement weather such as rain, lightning, windstorms or icy conditions and end your hunt and return to the ground if inclement conditions arise.

6.3.1.10 Never use, install, or remove a treestand, tripod, or tower while using drugs (even prescription drugs) or alcohol.

6.3.1.11 Never use, install, or remove a treestand, tripod, or tower while feeling ill, nauseous or dizzy, or if you have a prior medical condition that could cause a problem, that is, heart condition, joints that lock-up, spinal fusions, etc., or if you are not well rested.

6.3.1.12 Never use, install, or remove a treestand on a dead, leaning, diseased or loose barked tree, or a utility pole.

6.3.1.13 Never rely on a tree branch for support.

6.3.1.14 Never jump or bounce on a treestand to seat it to the tree.

6.3.1.15 Pull up a bow, backpack, or firearm or other equipment only after being secure in the treestand and a firearm must be pulled up with it unloaded, chamber open, and muzzle down.

6.3.1.16 Always inform someone of the hunting location, where the treestand, tripod, or tower will be located and the expected duration of the hunt.

6.3.1.17 A signal device such as a mobile phone, radio, whistle, signal flare or personal locator device (PLD) must be on your person and readily available at all times.

6.3.1.18 Never leave a treestand in a tree for more than two weeks since weather or animals could cause damage. Tree growth can also stress and damage straps and buckles that may not be visible or obvious to the ordinary eye.

6.3.1.19 Inspect the treestand, tripod, or tower and all safety devices each time before use and do not store a treestand outdoors.

6.3.1.20 Never modify your treestand, tripod, or tower in any way by making repairs, replacing parts, or altering it except if explicitly authorized in writing by the manufacturer.

6.3.1.21 Practice installing, adjusting, removing, and using your treestand at ground level prior to using it at elevated positions.

6.3.1.22 Instructions (written and video) shall be kept in a safe place and reviewed at least annually. It is the responsibility of the treestand, tripod, or tower owner to furnish the complete instructions to any person who borrows or purchases the treestand, tripod, or tower.

##### 6.3.2 Climbing Treestands Topics/Scenes:

6.3.2.1 The initial angle of the platform/climber at ground level must allow for the decrease in tree diameter while ascending by tilting slightly upward.

6.3.2.2 For two-piece climbing treestands the tether connecting the top and the platform must be secure and at the length recommended by the manufacturer.

6.3.2.3 Platform level adjustments shall not be made anywhere except at ground level (except for those special cases of products designed and intended to be safely adjusted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions).

6.3.2.4 While climbing, adjustments to the harness attachment to the tree (tether/tree belt) shall be frequent and coordinated with treestand movement to maintain the least amount of slack in the tether that will allow for climbing.

6.3.2.5 Familiarize yourself with the use of climbers by practicing at ground level before using in a hunting environment.

### 6.3.3 *Non-climbing (Fixed or Hang-on) Treestands:*

6.3.3.1 The use of a lineman's/climbing belt is required when installing and removing a hang-on treestand to stabilize the user with the tree.

6.3.3.2 Correct tightening and adjustment of chains, cables, straps, etc. are critical to stable hang-on treestand installation. All treestand contact points must be in contact with the tree before you step onto your stand.

6.3.3.3 Practice the attachment and removal of hang-on treestands at ground level before using in a hunting environment.

6.3.3.4 Use a haul line to raise and lower the treestand. Never climb with anything on your back.

6.3.3.5 Climbing aids (stick ladders, sectional ladders, steps, etc.) must extend above the platform to allow the user to step down onto the platform. Never step up to your stand from a climbing aid.

### 6.3.4 *Ladder Treestand Topics/Scenes:*

6.3.4.1 Use at least three (3) people to install or remove/take down a ladder treestand.

6.3.4.2 The criss-cross straps and stabilization devices must be attached before climbing to the platform.

6.3.4.3 When installing a ladder stand, always bounce on the first rung to set the ladder into the ground according to manufacturer's instructions before proceeding to climb any higher.

6.3.4.4 Check every ladder section connection every time you use the stand before you leave the ground. If ladder sections are separating, do not use the stand.

6.3.4.5 Check the ground under the stand to make sure it is firm and level. Sloping ground or uneven surface (one side on a rock) can cause your ladder to tilt or shift off the tree as you climb.

6.3.4.6 Maintain three (3) points of contact when climbing a ladder treestand.

6.3.4.7 Always lean forward as you climb and attach your harness to the tree before securing the platform to the tree and stepping onto the platform.

### 6.3.5 *Tripod and Tower Stand Topics/Scenes:*

6.3.5.1 When using a tripod or tower stand the risk of a fall can occur anytime after leaving the ground. Falling from a tripod or tower stand can result in serious injury or death.

6.3.5.2 A fall arrest system/full body harness (FAS/FBH) that meets industry standards for treestands is not included with

tripods and tower stands. FAS/FBH designed for treestands require that the tether be anchored/attached to the tree. Never attach a FAS/FBH to a tripod or tower stand or any part of its structure as this could lead to an unsafe condition. Failure to follow this warning could result in serious injury or death!

6.3.5.3 When installing, taking down or moving a tripod or tower stand you must strictly follow the manufacturer's instructions to determine the appropriate number of people required to perform these tasks (at least 3 people or more).

6.3.5.4 Prior to setting up your tripod or tower stand inspect the ground surface area. The ground must be firm, level and free of any debris. Soft or sloping ground and debris can cause the platform to become unstable and lead to unsafe conditions such as tilting, shifting or tipping. Never attempt to climb a tripod or tower stand that is leaning, unstable or slanted.

6.3.5.5 Never erect a tripod or tower stand near overhead electrical power lines or buried utilities, or both, that can cause electrocution, explosion, or fire, or a combination thereof. You must always contact appropriate authorities prior to installing any structure on or near right of ways or underground utilities.

6.3.5.6 For towers and tripods designed for two or more people, never allow more than one person at a time to ascend or descend the ladder. Be certain first person is fully off the ladder/entry platform and positioned safely on tower platform or ground before second person ascends or descends ladder.

6.3.5.7 Always maintain three (3) points of contact when climbing a tripod or tower stand. Proper three-point contact means having either two feet with one hand or one foot with two hands on the step portion of the ladder at all times. Never lean backward when climbing as this could cause the tripod or tower stand to become unstable.

6.3.5.8 Tripod and tower stands must be properly secured or anchored, or both, to the ground according to manufacturer's instructions. Avoid using tripod and tower stands during windy conditions which could cause the free standing platform to tip over and result in damage to equipment and also serious injury or death to the users.

6.3.5.9 Inspect tripod and tower stands before each use. Leaving equipment exposed to rain, sunlight, changing temperatures, snow and extreme weather conditions for extended periods of time can cause dangerous conditions not visible to the naked eye. Do not attempt to use any product if damage is detected or suspected. For your personal safety and also the safety of others, the product should be removed from service immediately.

### 6.3.6 *Fall Arrest System (FAS) and Full Body Harness Topics/Scenes:*

6.3.6.1 Read and understand the manufacturer's warnings, expiration date, and instructions on how to use and how to properly adjust the harness.

6.3.6.2 Practice the use of a full body harness at ground level in the presence of a responsible adult to experience the feeling of hanging suspended before using in a hunting environment.

6.3.6.3 The length of the harness tether shall be minimized at all times. It shall be adjusted so that it is above the head with no slack (snug) in the sitting position and you shall have the minimum amount of slack possible when climbing.