



Standard Practice for Treestand Instructions¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 2123; 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 (ϵ) 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 are in inch-pound units and are to be regarded as standard.~~

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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Terminology

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

2.2 *Definitions:*

2.2.1 ~~backbar or V-bar~~ 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.

2.2.2 ~~climbing stick~~ 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.

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

2.2.4 ~~handclimber, or climbing aid~~ 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.

2.2.5 ~~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. ~~(The~~

2.2.5.1 *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. ~~(The~~

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

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

2.2.7 ~~platform, n~~—the horizontal structural area of a treestand on which the user stands ~~and/or~~ places his feet, or both.

2.2.8 ~~treestand~~ 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.

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

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

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

3. Summary of Practice

3.1 This practice provides minimum guidelines ~~for the selection, content and placement of user instructions for treestands particularly for quality assurance and adequacy of safety.~~

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4. Significance and Use

~~4.1 This practice is provided to develop and maintain uniformity in practices for selection, content and placement of user instructions for treestands, particularly with regard to quality assurance and safety.~~

~~4.2 It is emphasized that the use of these practices will not alter the validity of data determined with specific tests, but provides guidance in the interpretation of test results (valid or invalid) and guidance in the selection of a reasonable general provision in those instances where no standard exists today.~~

4.1 This practice is provided to develop and maintain uniformity in practices for instructions for treestands, particularly with regard to quality assurance and safety.

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

5. Procedure

~~5. 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.~~

~~5.2 All user instructions shall be clearly understandable, in English, and included with each unit.~~

5.1 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.

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

5.2.1 In addition to model specific written instructions, Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) or Video Home System (VHS) tape shall provide non-model specific video instructions and safety warnings with each unit.

5.2.2 Video instructions for harnesses that are separately furnished for a treestand (after market) are exempt from providing instructions specific to the treestand only. However, the proper use of, and warnings for using the harness with all different types of treestands must be shown.

5.3 Selection of Content:

~~5.3.1 Initial, basic instructions shall include, but not be limited to, the following:~~

~~5.3.1.1 The manufacturer's name and address.~~

~~5.3.1.2 The unit model identification.~~

~~5.3.1.3 The unit weight limit.~~

~~5.3.1.4 Notification to read instructions before use and that failure to do so could result in injury or death.~~

~~5.3.1.5 A warning to use fall protection, specifically a full body harness.~~

~~5.3.1.6 Cautions on use during inclement weather and on trees of questionable integrity.~~

~~5.3.1.7 A warning not to use if the user has consumed alcohol or drugs.~~

~~5.3.1.8 A clear caution, notification or warning of any particular or special condition of assembly, adjustment or use of the unit that would not be reasonable and/or obvious to an inexperienced person.~~

~~5.4 The instructions shall include information on the method of attaching the treestand to the tree. This shall include the use of photographs and/or diagrams to illustrate and further clarify instructions.~~

~~5.4.1 The minimum (and maximum, where applicable) tree diameter for proper use shall be specified.~~

~~5.4.2 A procedure for adjusting the unit to fit a given tree shall be specified. This shall include the use of photographs and/or diagrams to illustrate and further clarify instructions.~~

~~5.5 For climbing treestands, the instructions shall include information about the method to use in climbing or descending the tree. This shall include the use of photographs and/or diagrams to illustrate and further clarify instructions.~~

~~5.5.1 A notation shall be made in this section of the instructions that the user should use a fall protection device, specifically a full body harness, and a handclimber or climbing aid while climbing or descending. Instructions on the proper use, warnings, and securing the harness to the tree shall be provided either separately or as part of the treestand instructions.~~

~~5.5.2 Foot placement and foot harness adjustment instructions (where applicable) shall be included within this section.~~

~~5.6 Instruction shall be given to inform the user of details specific to the unit such as, but not limited to, the following:~~

~~5.6.1 For units with integral seats, the method and/or adjustments required to erect the seat (where applicable).~~

~~5.6.2 For units with a balance bar, arm rest, gun rest, etc., the method and/or adjustments required to erect same (where applicable).~~

~~5.6.3 For two piece units (without integral seats) such as "stand-up/sit-down" treestands notification shall be given to secure the upper and lower pieces together with a flexible device such as a rope, strap, etc. to eliminate inadvertent separation while in use.~~

~~5.7 Instructions shall include information on the proper care and maintenance of the unit. Information shall include, but not be limited to the following:~~

~~5.7.1 Periodic inspection for defects from damage, rot, corrosion, cracks, freezing, excessive heat, etc.~~

~~5.7.1.1 Notice shall be given that periodic inspection is required and not to use the unit if damage is detected or suspected.~~

~~5.7.1.2 Minor maintenance that the manufacturer deems reasonably appropriate for users should be recommended. Examples~~

include, but are not limited to: re-tightening or replacement of hardware (specified and supplied by the manufacturer), replacement of rope, straps, cords, etc. (specified and supplied by the manufacturer), preserving or refinishing wood, touch-up painting, lubrication, etc.

5.7.1.3 Storage and/or any conditions the unit should not be subjected to.

5.8 Additional Content

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

5.3.1.1 General treestand safety topics/scenes.

5.3.1.2 The manufacturer's name and address.

5.3.1.3 The unit model identification.

5.3.1.4 The unit weight limit.

5.3.1.5 When hunting from a treestand falls can occur any time after leaving the ground causing injury or death.

5.3.1.6 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 and hang-on treestands. Single safety belts and chest harnesses are no longer allowed and shall never be used. 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.

5.3.1.7 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.

5.3.1.8 Never exceed the total weight limit of the treestand.

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

5.3.1.10 Never use a treestand while using drugs (even prescription drugs) or alcohol.

5.3.1.11 Never use a treestand while feeling ill, nauseous or dizzy.

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

5.3.1.13 Never rely on a tree branch for support.

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

5.3.1.15 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.

5.3.1.16 Always inform someone of the hunting location, where the treestand will be located and the expected duration of the hunt.

5.3.1.17 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.

5.3.1.18 Inspect the treestand and all safety devices each time before use and do not store a treestand outdoors when not in use.

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

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

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

5.3.2 Climbing Treestands Topics/Scenes :

5.8. It is recommended that additional instructions be given as follows:

5.8.1. Information on the method of securing applicable attachments.

5.8.1.2 Information (not given above) about applicable user adjustments.

5.8.1.3 Aids or helpful hints that are not obvious to the inexperienced user.

5.9 Placement

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

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

5.3.2.3 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).

5.3.2.4 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.

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

5.3.3 Non-climbing (Fixed or Hang-on) Treestands:

5.9. Instructions shall be included with each unit. It is recommended that (where applicable) the instructions be attached to the unit or placed within a part of the unit.

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

5.3.3.2 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.