



Standard Practice for Treestand Instructions¹

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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 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, 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, 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, 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, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

2.2.8 *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.

2.2.9 *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 instructions for treestands particularly for quality assurance and adequacy of safety.

4. Significance and Use

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

5.1 It is recommended that manufacturers follow the methods of developing instructions so described herein. When

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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 treestand or treestand ladder.

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 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, 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.

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:*

5.3.2.1 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:*

5.3.3.1 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.

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

5.3.3.4 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.

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

5.3.3.6 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.

5.3.4 *Ladder Treestand and Tripod Topics/Scenes:*

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

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