

**HE Lesson Plan 7**

## Elevated Devices - Tree-Stands and Tree-Stand Safety

**Instructor Training Aids and References**

Student manual, Tree-Stand Guide, this lesson plan, Portable Tree (IHEA or WDNR approved) or suitable live tree, Ladder type tree-stand and/or other commercial tree-stands, climbing devices, Safety Harnesses, Bow or Firearm, Haul Line, Dummy Ammunition

**TIME PERIOD (APPROXIMATELY):** 30 - 60 minutes

This lesson meets the NBEF standards and exceeds the IHEA standards

**TYPE OF LESSON**

- E.D.O.C.**  
 **LECTURE**  
 **DISCUSSION**  
 **PRACTICAL**

**OBJECTIVE(S)**

- The advantages/disadvantages and dangers associated with all types of elevated stands
- The value of fall restraint systems.
- Making a firearm safe while entering/exiting an elevated stand.
- Always use a haul line to raise and lower guns, bows and other equipment.

**LESSON OUTLINE****ITEMS NEEDED**

**EDUCATE:** There are numerous types of tree-stands and elevated devices from which to hunt from. All have their own advantages and disadvantages.

**TREE STAND TYPES****1. Ladder Stand:**

- CON - Bulky and Heavy
- CON - Limited to certain heights
- CON - Difficult to put up
- PRO - Offers a good platform from which to shoot
- PRO - Works on most suitable trees

**2. Climbing Stand:**

- CON - Practical only on straight limbless trees
- PRO - Light weight and easy to use
- PRO - Offer their own climbing system = No steps or ladders needed

**3. Hang-On Stand:**

- CON - Can be difficult to secure to tree
- CON - Require climbing equipment
- CON - Safe once installed, but small seat/platform
- PRO - Useable on most suitable trees
- PRO - Light weight and very portable

**4. Tri-Pod Stand:**

- CON - Bulky and Heavy
- CON - Need to use vehicle to carry to hunting site
- PRO - Useful where no/inadequate trees are present

Tree-Stand Guide

Examples of each type of tree stand if you have them

<p>5. <b>Home-Made Stand</b> (varieties of the list above)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CON - Require a high degree of maintenance</li> <li>• CON – Typically will permanently damage trees</li> <li>• PRO - Usually less expensive</li> <li>• PRO - Can be made to your specifications</li> </ul> <p>6. <b>Pop Up Blinds</b> – Show and inform Only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CON - Typically camouflaged, should use orange during gun season</li> <li>• CON - Typically less safe shots (less backstops) than tree stands</li> <li>• PRO - Light Weight and easy to carry</li> <li>• PRO - No danger of falling out of tree</li> </ul> <p><b>CLIMBING DEVICES</b> – Discuss Advantages and Disadvantages of each type</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climbing sticks of various types and systems to secure to trees</li> <li>2. Ladder Sections</li> <li>3. Screw In and Strap on Steps</li> </ol> <p><b>FALL RESTRAINT SYSTEMS</b> – Discuss Advantages and Disadvantages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ALWAYS use a Fall Restraint Harness of some kind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoulder Harness</li> <li>• Full Body Harness</li> <li>• Vest Harness</li> <li>• Climbing Safety Strap</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b>GENERAL TREE STAND SAFTEY</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Always use 3 points of contact when climbing into or out of the stand. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hands 1 foot or 2 feet 1 hand.</li> <li>• Discuss Reasons for 3 points of Contact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Steps/Rungs Slippery or Break</li> <li>○ 1 of 3 Hunters who use stands fall out of the stands</li> <li>○ Most falls occur climbing in to or out of a stand.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Always use a Haul Line for ALL of your equipment.</li> <li>3. Always unload your firearm when raising or lowering it</li> </ol> <p><b><u>DEMONSTRATE:</u></b> Instructor performs the following steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Put on preferred Safety Harness over hunting clothes</li> <li>2. Unload your firearm and attach it to your haul line <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muzzles should be pointing down, horizontal, or firearms in a case</li> <li>• Use haul line for backpacks and/or other bulky equipment</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Using 3 points of contact climb into your tree-stand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hands 1 foot or 2 feet 1 hand</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Examples of each type of tree stand if you have them</p> <p>Pop Up Blind</p> <p>Examples of Climbing Devices</p> <p>Examples of Fall Restraint Harnesses and Systems</p> <p>Tree Stand Safety Guide</p> <p>Haul Line Types</p> <p>Read 1 – 7 from the lesson plan</p>
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4. Once in the stand immediately attach your safety harness to tree
    - Allow only enough slack to fall a few inches from seated position so hunter can return to the stand.
  5. Haul your equipment up into the stand
  6. Load your firearm or nock an arrow
  7. To climb down, reverse the order above
- Are there any questions? Address each in a concise manner

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**OBSERVE:** Observe the student perform the above demonstration procedure

1. Students Perform the 7 steps of the demonstration
2. Each student is to SAY each action before performing

**CONGRATULATE:** Give praise throughout and at the conclusion to the group.

**INSTRUCTORS NOTE:**

1. Tree Stands should not be more than 2-5 feet off the ground
2. Watch for Muzzle Control
3. Coach students whenever necessary for proper procedure.
4. Bow Hunter Safety courses should include a demonstration of the proper installation and safe use of the common types of stands. (Ladder, Hang On, Climbing and Pop Up Blinds)

Hunter Safety courses: If time allows have some or all of the students perform the 7 steps.

Bow Hunter Safety courses all students should perform all 7 steps