

Wildlife Commission Advises on Tree Stand Safety

More people are hurt falling from tree stands than any other type of hunting accidents, yet tree stand-related injuries are almost always avoidable. Last deer hunting season, officers with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission investigated two fatalities and seven injuries that were related to tree stand use. There have been two fatalities that were related to tree stand use so far this season.

The Wildlife Commission's Home From The Hunt safety campaign has made tree stand safety a top priority in North Carolina for the 2012-13 hunting season. Hunter Education Program instructors are emphasizing proper use of tree stands and elevated hunting platforms in workshops, programs and events across the state.

"Following some basic guidelines can prevent injuries and won't interfere with a successful hunt," said Travis Casper, the state hunter education coordinator. "Maintain three points of contact when climbing up or down. Use a full body safety harness at all times. Check belts, chains and attachment cords before use. Follow manufacturer's instructions."

- Other recommendations include:
- Never carry anything as you climb - use a haul line to raise and lower an unloaded gun or other equipment after you are seated safely in the tree stand.
 - Have an emergency signal, such as a cell phone on vibrate, whistle or flare, readily accessible.
 - Let someone know where you plan to hunt and when you plan to return.
 - Select a healthy, straight tree for your tree stand.
 - Don't exceed manufacturer's maximum height settings.
- "If you have a tree stand that has been in place for an extended length of time, take it down," Casper said. "Inspect it. Replace frayed bolts, frayed straps or, if needed, buy a new tree stand. Your life could depend on it."
- Tree stand safety is a key component taught in Hunter Education courses, required for all first-time hunting license buyers. All first-time hunting license buyers first must complete a hunter education course successfully. There are no minimum age requirements; however, classes are taught at an eighth-grade level and tests must be completed without assistance. Courses are a minimum of 10 hours. They are taught by wildlife officers, hunter education specialists and certified volunteer instructors. Hunter education certification is accepted in every state and province in North America.

To find a free course near you, go to www.ncwildlife.org or call 919-707-0031 for more information.



Bill Capel's Food Center

Some years ago Bill and Herman Capel were in the grocery business here in Wadesboro. Originally they owned Carls #1, and then after buying the Bill Thompson store on Highway 74, they called it Carls #2. However, after Herman's death, Bill changed Carls #2's name to Bill Capel's Food Center.

Seeing the need for a new building, in 1975 Bill built a new store building - larger and further back from the highway - to make more adequate parking.

Bill had worked for R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company for many years, retiring to go to "real work" in the grocery business - where he did a great job!!

The new sign pictured above is one I did for Bill in June 1983 - making the lower panel for advertised specials. As you can see by the cigarette carton prices of only \$5.75 - that does, indeed, look like a "good, cheap price" - a tremendous success as compared to current prices!!

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Proper Handling of Firearms Prevents Injuries

The Home From The Hunt safety campaign of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission states that too many hunting injuries come from ignoring basic firearms safety. "Treat every firearm as if it were loaded and always point the muzzle in a safe direction," said Travis Casper, state hunter education coordinator. "Don't rest a barrel on your foot or lean on it - that's not a safe direction."

The four basic rules of firearms safety are:

- Always point a firearm in a safe direction.
- Treat every firearm as if it were loaded and never assume a firearm is unloaded.
- Keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Be sure of your target and what is beyond your target.

"Throughout the various hunting seasons, the majority of folks are responsible and safe," Casper said. "North Carolina has an excellent hunting safety record that improves every year. But it isn't perfect and we want to eliminate all preventable incidents."

Firearms safety is taught as a component of hunter education. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission provides free hunter education courses throughout the year in every county. Hunter education instructors stress firearms safety in the classes. In addition, the curriculum includes instruction on conservation, wildlife identification, survival and first aid, specialty hunting and tree stand safety.

All first-time license buyers first must complete a hunter education course successfully. There are no minimum age requirements; however, classes are taught at an eighth-grade level and tests must be completed without assistance. Courses are a minimum of 10 hours. They are taught by wildlife officers, hunter education specialists and certified volunteer instructors. Hunter education certification is accepted in every state and province in North America.

Go to www.ncwildlife.org to find a course schedule or call 919-707-0031 for more information.

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Casting Call for Black History Program

Lucille Gaddy has extended an invitation to area citizens to participate in a casting call for an upcoming black history program. She is looking for males, 14 to 25 years old and females 25 years old and older.

This event will take place at the Hampton B. Allen Library on Monday, November 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information you can contact Lucille at 704-694-4192 or email Lucille1236@yahoo.com.