

Deer Hunting Safety Tips

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL, HUNTING IS A SAFE ACTIVITY. IN FACT, HUNTING RESULTS IN FEWER INJURIES PER 100,000 PARTICIPANTS THAN DO MANY OTHER SPORTS, INCLUDING CYCLING, BOWLING, GOLF AND TENNIS. HOWEVER, AS WITH ANY ACTIVITY, YOU MUST ALWAYS USE GOOD JUDGMENT AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS. DEER AND TURKEY HUNTERS SHOULD FOLLOW SAFE, ETHICAL HUNTING PRACTICES.

- ⚡ Don't rely on your gun's safety. Treat all firearms as if they're loaded and ready to fire.
- ⚡ Never cross a fence, climb a tree or stand or jump a ditch with a loaded gun.
- ⚡ Never hoist a loaded firearm into a stand.
- ⚡ Never load or carry a loaded firearm until you are ready to use it. Always unload firearms before riding in any vehicle, including ATVs. Watch your muzzle so the other hunter doesn't have to.
- ⚡ Wear hunter orange so you can be seen. A blaze orange hat and at least 400 square inches of hunter orange above the waistline must be worn during all gun deer seasons. It must be worn at all times, not taken off once in the stand.
- ⚡ Keep guns and ammunition separately and in locked storage.
- ⚡ Don't shoot unless absolutely sure of your target and what is beyond it.
- ⚡ Know the range of your firearm. Remember, even a .22 rim fire can travel over 1-1/2 miles.
- ⚡ Always be sure your gun barrel and action are clear of obstructions and only carry ammunition specifically intended for the firearm you're using.
- ⚡ Always carry handguns with the hammer down on an empty chamber.
- ⚡ Avoid alcoholic beverages before and during shooting.
- ⚡ Tell someone where you're going and when you plan to return. If you move from one area to another advise someone.
- ⚡ Dress for the weather. Take a GPS or compass to prevent getting lost.
- ⚡ Carry a flashlight while walking through the hunting area before or after daylight.

Contents source: National Safety Council and ND Game and Fish (Users of Safety Talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations).

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national origin, public assistance status, sex, sexual orientation, status as a U.S. veteran, race or religion. Direct inquiries to the Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach, 205 Old Main, (701)231-7708