Make safety the #1 priority!

**Hunting Safety Tips:**

- **Positively identify your target.** Be sure you're shooting at legal game. Never shoot at sounds or movement.
- **Plan your hunt.** Make sure someone knows where you’re hunting and when you plan to return.
- **Stay in the zone.** Know your safe zone-of-fire and never shoot at game moving between you and someone else.
- **Keep fit.** Keep physically fit. Start with a check-up and follow your doctor’s advice.
- **Stay found.** Become familiar with your hunting area and be prepared for emergencies.
- **Be seen.** Wear or display the required amount of fluorescent orange.

**Think SMART About Firearm Safety:**

**Safe direction:** Keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction at all times.

**Make sure:** Positively identify your target.

**Always check:** Know what’s beyond your target before shooting.

**Respect firearms:** Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.

**Trigger caution:** Don’t touch the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
STEPS to Tree Stand Safety:

Use the STEPS below to reduce your risk of falling from tree stands:

- **S - Safety harness or belt:** Always wear a full-body safety harness whenever your feet leave the ground.
- **T - Tree stand maintenance:** Check your stand for missing or broken parts before each use.
- **E - Evaluate your stand site:** Select trees that are alive and will support your weight.
- **P - Partners and plans:** Hunt with a partner and have a plan in case of emergency.
- **S - Signals:** Carry a whistle or other signaling device should you need assistance.

Storing Firearms Responsibly:

- Unloaded firearms should be **stored when not in use** in a locked cabinet, safe, gun vault or storage case inaccessible by children.
- **Ammunition should be stored in a locked location** separate from firearms.
- Thoroughly double check firearms to **confirm that they are unloaded** when you remove or return to storage.
- Use a **gun locking device** that renders the firearm inoperable when not in use.

The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division is a non-profit organization committed to preventing traumatic injury and death through education.

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All information is courtesy of the Pennsylvania Game Commission website: [http://www.pgc.pa.gov/](http://www.pgc.pa.gov/)