

DEER HUNTING RULES & REGULATIONS - BOW HUNTING ONLY

1. Hunters must hold a valid CURRENT Ontario hunting licence - Outdoors Card, as well as all applicable licences, licence tags, e-licences, game seals and validation tags for the species being hunted, and must carry these with him/her while hunting.
2. Hunters must comply with hunting regulations as set down by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Any hunter found violating these regulations will lose their hunting privileges on Authority land, in addition to any fines or penalties imposed by the Ministry of Natural Resources Conservation officers, RCMP, OPP or the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) enforcement officers.
3. Any hunter found to be wilfully violating the rights of others, or exhibiting dangerous or careless conduct, will lose their right to hunt on ERCA land.
4. One application and/or permit per person.
5. Permit holders will select their hunting location and notify ERCA prior to hunting of this location using a GPS. If the permit holder(s) wish to move locations, they must notify ERCA and provide new GPS coordinates prior to the move. This allows enforcement staff to know the location of permitted stands or blind, vs. illegal stands, and ensures that you do not put your stand in an ecologically sensitive area.
6. No cutting or trimming of vegetation is permitted.
7. Only removable tree stands and tree climbing equipment can be used. No tree climbing steps or other equipment that is nailed or screwed into the tree is permitted.
8. Tree stand safety: To ensure your safety, you are required to only use Tree stand Manufacturer Association approved stands, climbing equipment and fall arrest equipment. Attached to this permit are tree stand safety guidelines that must be adhered to. You must always follow the manufacturer's safety precautions, warnings and instructions. Permit holders not complying with these safety rules will have their hunting permit cancel immediately.
9. Sub-leasing of deer hunting permit will not be permitted.
10. A map of the ERCA property will be given to each hunter. Hunters will be expected to remain within these boundaries.
11. A hunter will only be permitted to hunt at one site. Their name shall not appear on more than one permit as either the primary hunter or a partner.
12. A hunter is only permitted to take one deer and there shall be only one stand per hunter e.g. for a property with three hunters permitted, only three stands are permitted.
13. Retrieval – If a wounded deer leaves ERCA property, the permit holder must obtain permission from the adjacent landowner before entering their property. You may wish to make these arrangements prior to hunting. All wounded and failed retrieves should be reported to ERCA.
14. No ATV's or other motorized equipment can be used in the forest. You must carry your deer to the closest access point or parking area. A motorized vehicle can be permitted around the perimeter of the forest for retrieval only. Motorized vehicles are not permitted for travel to or from your stand.
15. Violation of the regulations found within this document by any member of a hunting party may result in the entire party losing their hunting privileges.
16. No refund of fees will be given to a person who has lost his/her hunting privileges.
17. Permit holders must carry a copy of their permit with them while on their site.
18. These regulations may be changed by ERCA as required.
19. The entry fee is not refundable.

The undersigned hereby applies to you for a permit to hunt deer upon ERCA land for the hunting season (as prescribed by ERCA) and in consideration of ERCA granting such a permit the undersigned hereby covenants and agrees with you:

1. To observe and comply with all rules and regulations (as set out on the attached hereof) respecting deer hunting which may from time to time be promulgated by ERCA. To observe and comply with all rules and regulations (as set on the attached hereof) if promulgated from time to time by ERCA respecting the use of and entry to the ERCA lands.
2. To observe and comply with all directions and orders given by ERCA employees, peace officers and authorized ERCA personnel respecting deer hunting on the ERCA lands and the use of and entry of the ERCA lands.
3. To identify and save harmless ERCA, its agents, servants, members, officers, and employees and authorized personnel of and from all actions, claims and demands to persons or property of any nature or kind whatsoever arising out or by virtue of or relation to hunting of the ERCA lands or the use of and entry to the ERCA lands including limitation to any claims founded in negligence (and whether for acts of omission or commission.)
4. That as between the undersigned and ERCA, the undersigned accepts and undertakes sole responsibility for any damage to the undersigned or the property of the undersigned arising out of deer hunting on the ERCA lands or the use of or entry upon the ERCA lands,
5. That the undersigned is a hunter and experienced in the use of archery equipment.



Tree stand Safety Guidelines

ALWAYS wear a Fall-Arrest System (FAS)/Full Body Harness meeting TMA Standards even during ascent and descent. Be aware that single strap belts and chest harnesses are no longer the preferred Fall-Arrest devices and should not be used. Failure to use a FAS could result in serious injury or death.

ALWAYS read and understand the manufacturer's WARNINGS & INSTRUCTIONS before using the tree stand each season. Practice with the tree stand at ground level prior to using at elevated positions. Maintain the WARNINGS & INSTRUCTIONS for later review as needed, for instructions on usage to anyone borrowing your stand, or to pass on when selling the tree stand. Use all safety devices provided with your tree stand. Never exceed the weight limit specified by the manufacturer. If you have any questions after reviewing the WARNINGS & INSTRUCTIONS, please contact the manufacturer.

ALWAYS inspect the tree stand and the Fall-Arrest System for signs of wear or damage before each use. Contact the manufacturer for replacement parts. Destroy all products that cannot be repaired by the manufacturer and/or exceed recommended expiration date, or if the manufacturer no longer exists. The FAS should be discarded and replaced after a fall has occurred.

ALWAYS practice in your Full Body Harness in the presence of a responsible adult, learning what it feels like to hang suspended in it at ground level.

ALWAYS attach your Full Body Harness in the manner and method described by the manufacturer. Failure to do so may result in suspension without the ability to recover into your tree stand. Be aware of the hazards associated with Full Body Harnesses and the fact that prolonged suspension in a harness may be fatal. Have in place a plan for rescue, including the use of cell phones or signal devices that may be easily reached and used while suspended. If rescue personnel cannot be notified, you must have a plan for recover/escape. If you have to hang suspended for a period of time before help arrives, exercise your legs by pushing against the tree or doing any other form of continuous motion. Failure to recover in a timely manner could result in serious injury or death. If you do not have the ability to recover/escape, hunt from the ground.

ALWAYS hunt with a plan and if possible a buddy. Before you leave home, let others know your exact hunting location, when you plan to return and who is with you.

ALWAYS carry emergency signal devices such as a cell phone, walkie-talkie, whistle, signal flare, PLD (personal locator device) and flashlight on your person at all times and within reach even while you are suspended in your FAS. Watch for changing weather conditions. In the event of an accident, remain calm and seek help immediately.

ALWAYS select the proper tree for use with your tree stand. Select a live straight tree that fits within the size limits recommended in your tree stand's instructions. Do not climb or place a tree stand against a leaning tree. Never leave a tree stand installed for more than two weeks since damage could result from changing weather conditions and/or from other factors not obvious with a visual inspection.

ALWAYS use a haul line to pull up your gear and unloaded firearm or bow to your tree stand once you have reached your desired hunting height. Never climb with anything in your hands or on your back. Prior to descending, lower your equipment on the opposite side of the tree.

ALWAYS know your physical limitations. Don't take chances. If you start thinking about how high you are, don't go any higher.

NEVER use homemade or permanently elevated stands or make modifications to a purchased tree stand without the manufacturer's written permission. Only purchase and use tree stands and Fall-Arrest Systems meeting or exceeding TMA standards. For a detailed list of certified products, contact the TMA office or refer to the TMA web site at www.tmastands.com.

NEVER hurry!! While climbing with a tree stand, make slow, even movements of no more than ten to twelve inches at a time. Make sure you have proper contact with the tree and/or tree stand every time you move. On ladder-type tree stands, maintain three points of contact with each step.