Thomasville Fire Department

Sept. **Fire and Life Safety Bulletin** 2020

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year. As our nation continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to be involved this September.

The 2020 NPM theme is: "**Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today**."

- Week 1: Sept 1-5 — Make A Plan
- Week 2: Sept 6-12 — Build A Kit
- Week 3: Sept 13-19 — Prepare for Disasters
- Week 4: Sept 20-26 — Teach Youth About Preparedness

Learn more about each week by visiting Ready.gov.

- Make A Plan: Know how to prepare for disasters that include how you will communicate with family and friends during disasters, reviewing insurance papers, and much more.
- Build A Kit: You'll need items to survive during a disaster that includes supplies you may need at home as well as a go kit of items you may need if you must evacuate quickly to a safer location.
- Prepare for Disasters: Find out the best way to limit the impacts a disaster may have, like having the right insurance coverage or what can you do to your home to make it stronger and more resilient.
- Teach Youth About Preparedness: Take the time now and talk with your children to reassure them. Teach them lessons on preparedness. Make family preparedness a fun annual event.

HURRICANE ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Eyeing the Storm

The Atlantic hurricane season is ***June*** to ***November***, with the ***peak season*** from ***mid-August*** to ***late October***. On average there are six hurricanes, three of which are categorized as "major", each year. History provides important examples of the potentially dangerous impact hurricanes can have and the need to be prepared.

PREPARE FOR THE STORM

- **Charge all phones** and communication devices.
- **Unplug all electronics** and move them as high as possible.
- If recommended by utilities or emergency officials, **turn off breakers to avoid power surges**.

WEATHER THE STORM

- **Stay indoors during hurricanes** and away from windows and glass.
- **Never** operate a portable **generator inside your home**.
- **Never connect a generator directly** into your homes wiring unless a transfer switch has been installed.
- **Always use GFCIs** in areas where **water** and **electricity** may come in contact.

RECOVER FROM THE STORM

- **Do not use electrical equipment** and electronics, including receptacles, that have **been submerged in water**.
- Have a **qualified electrician** inspect any water damaged electrical equipment and electronics.
- **Stay away from downed power lines**. If you encounter a downed power line, stay at least **35 feet** away and do not touch the line or anything that may be in contact with the line.

HURRICANE CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1

74-95 MPH Winds
Some Damage

Potential **roof damage**.

Large tree branches may snap, shallow-rooted trees may fall.

Damage to utility poles and power lines. **Outages may last few to several days.**

CATEGORY 2

96-110 MPH Winds
Extensive Damage

Potential **major roof damage**.

Shallow-rooted trees will be **snapped or unrooted**.

Power **outages for several days to weeks.**

CATEGORY 3

111-129 MPH Winds
Devastating Damage

Major home damage.

Many trees will be **snapped or unrooted**.

Electricity and water may be **unavailable for several days to weeks.**

CATEGORY 4

130-156 MPH Winds
Catastrophic Damage

Severe home damage.

Most trees will be **snapped or unrooted** and utility poles downed.

Power **outages for weeks to possibly months.**

CATEGORY 5

>156 MPH Winds
Catastrophic Damage

High percentage of **framed homes** will be **destroyed**.

Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas.

Power **outages for weeks to possibly months.**

According to the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, homes built to modern building codes fare much better than homes built to older codes. Make sure your home is up to code.

Please share this free resource to save lives

ESFi Additional severe weather safety information is available at ***www.esfi.org***.

www.facebook.com/ESFI.org www.twitter.com/ESFIdotorg www.youtube.com/user/esfidotorg

GET READY!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
for Older Adults

Each person's needs and abilities are unique, but with careful planning anyone can prepare for an emergency. A disaster can occur anytime, anywhere, and without warning. Think about how a disaster might affect your individual needs.

Have a Plan

- Plan to make it on your own for at least seven days. You may not have access to a medical facility, pharmacy, or grocery store.
- Think about the resources you use daily and what you would do if they were not available.
- Create your emergency supplies kit.
- Identify local shelters or consider friends and family outside your immediate area with whom you could stay.
- If you have a pet, find out if local shelters or family are willing to accept the pet. If not, plan what you would do with the pet if you need to evacuate.

Create a Support Network

- Talk to family, friends, and others who may be able to help.
- Neighbors helping neighbors is important in an emergency. Make sure you know your neighbors. Introduce yourself and let them know any specific needs you may have.
- Share your emergency plan with everyone in your support network.
- Make sure everyone knows your evacuation plan and where you will go during a disaster.
- Practice your plan with those who have agreed to help you.
- Give an extra key to your home to someone in your support network.

Medications and Medical Supplies

- Make sure medical equipment, such as a cane or wheelchair, is clearly labeled with your name and contact information.
- Keep a list of your medications, dosage, physician, and pharmacy information.
- Be sure to include your eyeglasses, hearing aid and batteries, wheelchair batteries, and oxygen in your emergency supplies kit.
- If you use a battery-powered wheelchair, consider keeping your old un-powered chair for emergency use.

Keep Important Documents Together

- Include copies of important documents in your emergency supplies kit, such as medical records, wills, deeds, social security number, charge and bank account information, and tax records. Keep this information in a place that is secure, yet readily accessible if you need to get it in a hurry.
- Have copies of your medical insurance and Medicare cards available. Include a list of emergency contact numbers.
- If you have any disabilities, especially communication issues, be sure to include a list of them in you emergency information.
- Keep the important documents in a waterproof container.

For more information, visit the National Fire Protection Association at **www.nfpa.org/disaster**.

Developed by NFPA. Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness.

GET READY!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS for People with Disabilities and Activity Limitations

The best way to deal with disasters is to learn about and think through the challenges you may face if you could not use your home or your personal belongings. Some emergency situations require that you evacuate your home with little or no warning and move to a shelter or a designated site. By planning ahead, you can make sure you are ready to leave home with your most essential items, on a few moments notice.

Create a Personal Support Network

A personal support network, or self-help team, can help you prepare for a disaster. Your network should include people you know and trust and who can check on you within minutes to see if you need help. Neighbors are often the closest and most available contacts in an emergency. At home, work, school, or in the community, your support team should help you identify and secure resources and assess your needs before, during, and after a disaster. To be better prepared to help you, your network members should have copies of your personal disaster preparation plan for your home, your emergency contact list, and your medical information list. Do not rely on just one person, have at least three people trained in your network. Be ready to give brief, clear, specific instructions and directions to rescue personnel or write them down on note cards with supplies. Remember to keep copies of your contact lists with you to assist in your rescue and care following a disaster. Label your vital equipment with your name and contact information, as well as specific operating instructions. Be sure to instruct members of your network on how to operate and maintain your equipment.

Personal Disaster Preparation

Make an emergency information list that includes:

- Medical and emergency contact information;
- Emergency out-of-state contacts, outside the potential disaster area;
- Names and numbers of everyone in your network; and

Make a medical information list that includes:

- Medical provider information, including your doctor's name and number and your insurance policy information and numbers. Attach copies of prescriptions, insurance cards and related information to your medical lists.
- Medications and dosages being taken—remember to update this information.
- Specific medical conditions.
- Physical limitations.
- Adaptive equipment and vendors' phone numbers.
- Allergies or sensitivities.

Emergency Preparedness Kits

Basic Emergency Supplies Kit

Make an emergency supplies kit that contains your basic emergency supplies for your home, as well as your personal needs supplies.

First Aid Kit

Assemble a first aid kit that includes any and all medical supplies you need on a daily basis. Include a first aid textbook.

Disability Related Supplies and Other Equipment

List the specific supplies and equipment you may need. Be sure to note where you store these items and operation and maintenance instructions. Disability related supplies should be part of your basic supplies kit as well as part of your "go kit."

Portable "Go Kit"

Get a drawstring bag, a pouch with lots of pockets, a fanny pack, or a small backpack and keep it within reach, by your chair, wheelchair, scooter, or other assistive device. Your "Go Kit" should include a copy of your emergency and medical information and your support network contact information and doctors. Include a small flashlight; a whistle or noise maker; water; extra medication and copies of your prescriptions; an extra pair of glasses; a hearing aid; a pad and pencil or other writing device; and a pair of heavy work gloves for protection from glass and other debris.

Resources

Emergency Evacuation Preparedness Guide: A Guide for People with Disabilities and Other Activity Limitations. This guide helps people with disabilities better prepare for large or small-scale emergencies. **www.cdihp.org/evacuation/toc.html**

Emergency Preparedness: Taking Responsibility for Your Safety. Tips for People with Disabilities and Activity Limitations. Tip sheets focus on earthquake safety; however they are useful for all types of disaster preparedness for people with disabilities. **www.lacoa.org/PDF/ESP%2006/ESP%20Disabilities%20Guide%20FINAL%202006.pdf**

Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities. Booklet created by FEMA and the American Red Cross providing information for people with disabilities and activity limitations. **www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_603_,00.html**

For more information, visit the National Fire Protection Association at **www.nfpa.org/disaster**.

Developed by NFPA. Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness.

GET READY! EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS for Owners of Pets and Service Animals

Every disaster plan must include your pets. If you know disaster is imminent, bring your pet inside immediately. Get your animals under control as quickly as possible, either using a leash or by putting them in a pet carrier.

Disasters often strike suddenly, while you are away from home. You can improve your pet's chances for safety if you leave him/her inside, with collars and identification tags, when you go out. Consider an arrangement with a trusted neighbor who would be willing to evacuate your pets in your absence. Make sure the person knows your animals, can locate your emergency supplies, and has a key to your home. Provide him or her with instructions and phone numbers on how to reach you.

Keep your animal's license and identification current.

Keep up-to-date identification on your pets at all times. Use a properly fitting collar with an identification tag. Consider using a microchip for identification, but make sure local shelters have microchip scanners.

Keep current color photographs of your pet, showing any distinguishing markings, with your emergency supplies.

If you evacuate, take your pet.

Your animal's best protection is to be with you. Remember, taking your pet with you requires special planning.

Locate a safe place for your pets before disaster strikes. Evacuation shelters generally do not accept animals for public health and safety reasons. Service animals, on the other hand, are allowed to accompany their owners to an emergency shelter. Call hotels and motels in your immediate area and a reasonable distance from home to see if they will accept pets and under what conditions. Also, contact local boarding kennels and veterinary hospitals with boarding facilities. Ask friends and family members whether they will provide foster care for your pets.

NOTE: Animal shelters will provide temporary foster care for owned pets in times of disaster, but this should be considered only as a last resort.

Emergency Supplies Kit

Assemble a portable pet emergency supplies kit to provide for your pet's needs for seven days. Pack the supplies in a carry case, in case you evacuate. Include the following:

- Medications and medical records, including vaccination records (stored in a water proof container) and a first aid kit. Name and telephone number of your veterinarian. List medical conditions and special considerations.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape.
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost.
- Food, portable water, bowls, cat litter and pan, and can opener.
- Plastic bags/paper towels for disposing of animal waste.
- Favorite toys and pet beds with kennel or carrying case.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers in the kit.

Even with a disaster plan in place, pets and their owners can sometimes run into trouble, or a disaster can exceed local resources. Visit the Humane Society of the United States for more information, **www.hsus.org**.

For more information, visit the National Fire Protection Association at **www.nfpa.org/disaster**.

Developed by NFPA. Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness.

GET READY! FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supplies kit, or another secure place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Out-of-Town Contact _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____ Phone Number _____

Fill out the following information for each family member and keep it up to date.

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Where to go in an emergency. Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. Schools, daycare providers, workplaces, and apartment buildings should all site-specific emergency plans.

Home

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place _____

Regional Meeting Place _____

School

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Evacuation Location _____

School

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Evacuation Location _____

Work

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Evacuation Location _____

Work

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Evacuation Location _____

Other place you frequent

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Evacuation Location _____

Other place you frequent

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Evacuation Location _____

Pet Information

Name _____

Description _____

License # _____

Important Information	Name	Phone #	Policy#
Doctor(s)			
Other			
Pharmacist			
Medical Insurance			
Homeowners/Rental Insurance			
Veterinarian/Kennel (for pets)			

Dial 911 for emergencies **Police Non-Emergency Phone Number** _____

GET READY!

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Every family member should carry a copy of this important information:

Other Important Phone Numbers and Info

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Out of Town Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____

Phone: _____

Dial 911 for Emergencies!

< FOLD HERE >

Other Important Phone Numbers and Info

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Out of Town Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____

Phone: _____

Dial 911 for Emergencies!

< FOLD HERE >

Other Important Phone Numbers and Info

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Out of Town Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____

Phone: _____

Dial 911 for Emergencies!

Other Important Phone Numbers and Info

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Out of Town Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____

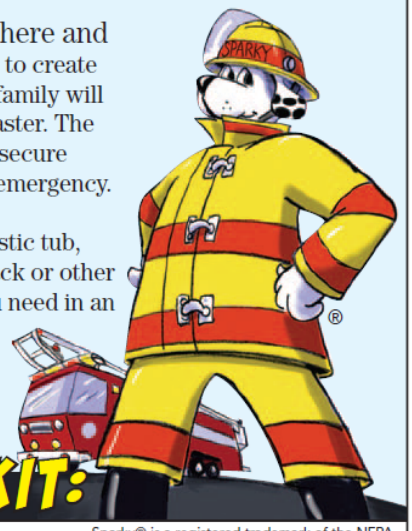
Phone: _____

Dial 911 for Emergencies!

GET READY!

Disasters can happen anywhere and at any time. By taking the time to create an emergency supplies kit, your family will be prepared in the event of a disaster. The kit also helps children feel more secure knowing it is there in case of an emergency.

The supplies can be kept in a plastic tub, small suitcase, trash can, backpack or other container. To learn what else you need in an emergency supplies kit, go to **www.ready.gov**.



EMERGENCY SUPPLIES KIT:

Sparky® is a registered trademark of the NFPA.

- ❑ Water – one gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation — store 3-day supply
- ❑ Ready-to-eat food, canned juices, comfort/stress foods — at least a 3-day supply
- ❑ Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and a NOAA weather radio, and extra batteries for both
- ❑ Flashlights and extra batteries
- ❑ First aid kit
- ❑ Non-prescription drugs such as pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid, laxative
- ❑ Prescription medications, contact lenses and supplies, denture needs
- ❑ Whistle to signal for help
- ❑ Infant formula and diapers, if you have an infant
- ❑ Water and pet food if you have pets
- ❑ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ❑ Dust mask or cotton t-shirt to filter the air
- ❑ Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ❑ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ❑ Can opener for food
- ❑ Aluminum foil
- ❑ A jacket or coat, hat and gloves
- ❑ A complete change of clothing including long pants, long sleeve shirt, and sturdy shoes stored in a waterproof container.
- ❑ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- ❑ Rain gear
- ❑ Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- ❑ Cash or traveler's checks, change
- ❑ Paper towels
- ❑ Tent
- ❑ Compass
- ❑ Matches in a waterproof container
- ❑ Signal flare
- ❑ Paper, pencil
- ❑ Personal hygiene items
- ❑ Soap
- ❑ Disinfectant and household chlorine bleach
- ❑ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container. Remember to include emergency contact numbers.
- ❑ Passport, bank account numbers, credit card account numbers and companies
- ❑ Books, games puzzles, portable music device

NOTE: *Replace food every six months. Re-think your kit and family needs once a year. Replace batteries and update clothes, etc.*

My Personal Pack Checklist

Have children create their personal pack. Have them include things like their favorite book or stuffed animal. These familiar things will help keep them comfortable during an emergency.

- ✔ Change of clothes
- ✔ Blanket
- ✔ Books
- ✔ Favorite toy
- ✔ Paper, pencils and crayons

For more information, visit the National Fire Protection Association at **www.nfpa.org/disaster**.

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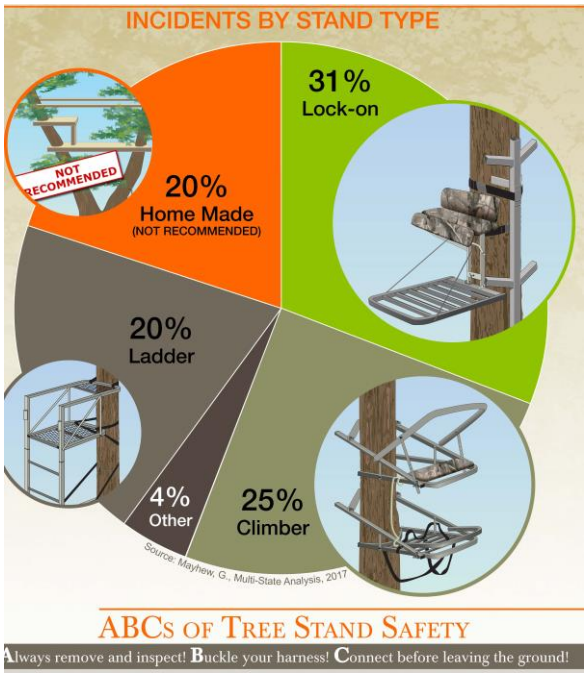
Tree Stand Safety Awareness Month

Do you know anyone who has been injured or killed by falling from a tree stand? Sadly, chances are you do because falls from tree stands are the No.1 cause of injury and death for deer hunters. That's why it's so important to take precautionary measures to ensure you remain safe throughout your time in the stand.

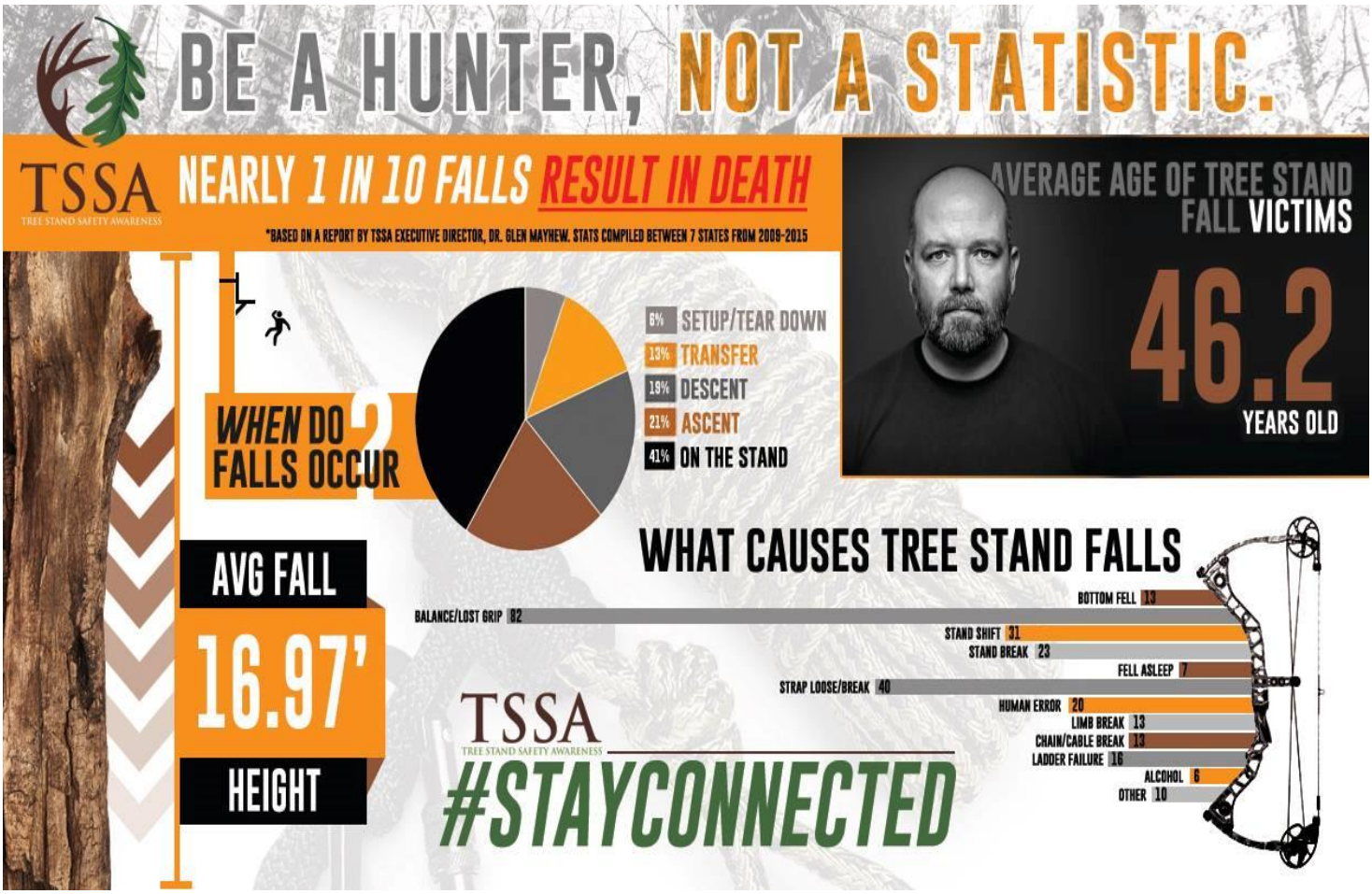


The Tree Stand Safety Awareness Foundation (TSSA) has designated September as Tree Stand Safety Awareness Month, since September is the month that most hunters start heading back to the woods to cut trails and hang stands in preparation for the hunting season.

In an effort to keep hunters safe this season, the TSSA has designed an educational campaign called the "ABC's of Tree Stand Safety" to serve as the building blocks to the awareness campaign. If you perform these three simple steps, you can virtually eliminate your risk of falling to the ground, as the majority of falls occur outside the stand.

- **Always remove and inspect your equipment**
- **Buckle on your full-body harness**
- **Connect to the tree before your feet leave the ground**

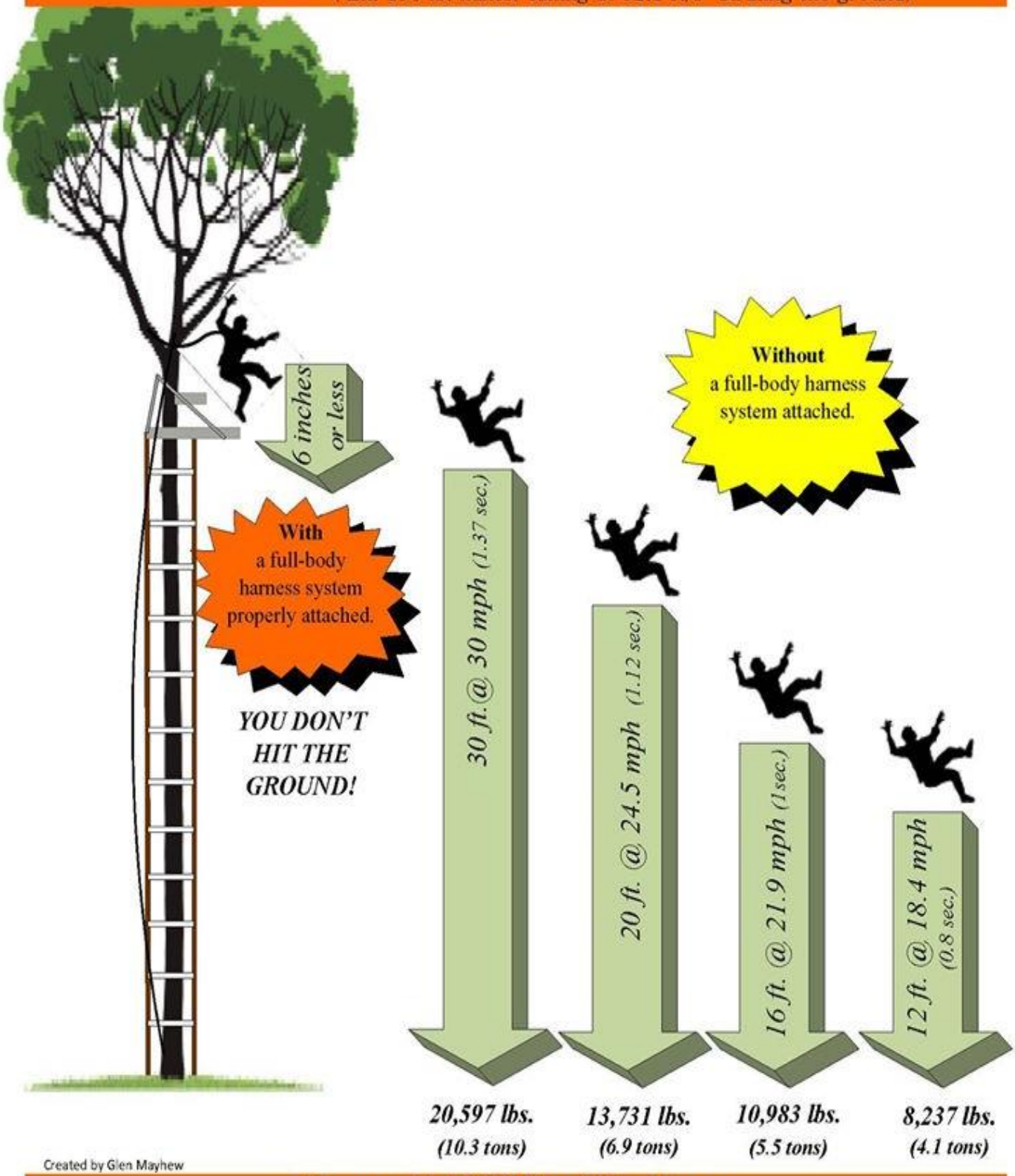
TSSA encourages all hunters to take tree stand safety seriously every time you hunt from, hang or remove a tree stand, and insist your buddies do the same.



How Hard will you Hit the Ground?

You Choose . . .

(Ex. 180 lb. hunter falling at 32.1 ft/s^2 striking the ground)



Created by Glen Mayhew

Connected 100% of the time.

Always use a full-body harness and a life-line or lineman's belt.

Each year, CPSC announces about 300 recalls involving millions of products. In 2019 alone, recalls included everything from infant sleep products and unstable furniture to recreational utility vehicles and lawn mowers. Remember, products are recalled because they can injure or kill someone. Chances are that you or someone you know has a recalled item in their home.

Here are some ways to be smart about recalls:

- Where can you check for recalls? cpsc.gov/recalls
- Want recall notices for products you use? Sign up to receive recall notices at cpsc.gov
- Want recall information readily available on your phone? Download the CPSC Recalls App at cpsc.gov/data
- Bought a new product? Send in registration cards that come with it so that companies know how to contact you if there is a recall.
- Got a hand-me-down or something you bought at a secondhand shop or yard sale? Check cpsc.gov to see if it is a recalled product.
- Think you have an unsafe product or an incident where someone was injured by a product? Report it at SaferProducts.gov

Remember -- not acting on a recall can have deadly consequences. Act TODAY and protect your family.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
UNITED STATES

Your links to all official City Thomasville Social Media sources

http://www.thomasville-nc.gov/services/thomasville-social-media-outlets

The City maintains a variety of Social Media outlets that are dedicated to different departments and user groups. This page gives you access to all of the official outlets maintained by city staff including the City Facebook page, Parks and Recreation Facebook page, Emergency Management Facebook Page, Police Department Twitter page, and Emergency Management Twitter page.

We also have an emergency push notification system called Nixle. This system allows you to sign-up for notifications- including weather information from the National Weather Service, Emergency road closures or other emergency notifications, along with other community information. Nixle Alerts:

Receive alerts from your local agencies Sign Up at https://local.nixle.com/register/ ...or text your ZIP CODE to 888777 for mobile alerts

Sign Up : Nixle
You will receive a single opt in welcome message. Reply YES to continue to receive SMS text messages. You may opt out at any point by sending STOP to 888777 . Send HELP to 888777 for information.

Follow our "Safety Sunday" Post on Ready Thomasville's Facebook Page

For additional Fire & Life Safety Information Contact: Thomasville FD Fire & Life Safety Division (336)475-5545

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