**Semper Safe**





**Hunting Safety**

Whether it's for sport or food, hunting requires you to be focused, skilled and patient. You also need to be careful -- hunting can be very dangerous. We all know and apply gun safety, right? So why does the average number of hunting accidents in the U.S. stay around 240 per year with an average of 20 being fatal. They didn’t follow basic hunter’s safety. Sometimes people do have accidents, but not all injuries come as the result of a firearms mishap. Unstable terrain or dangerous a­nimals are hazards that also put hunters at risk. It's important for you to know about the potential dangers before heading out on a hunt. Take a free hunter safety course, (required in N.C.) knowing the rules is the key to safe hunting. Find out what the requirements are where you plan to hunt. Here are a few hunting safety tips that you should keep in mind if you are going hunting this season.

* Firearms (including bows) and alcohol or drugs (including the prescription kind) do not mix
* Treat every firearm and bow as if it is loaded, keep the safety on until you’re ready to shoot
* Wear appropriate clothing for the elements and make yourself visible to other hunters (Deer can’t see colors, so DO NOT wear camo without wearing Hunter Orange)
* Identify your target and beyond, emotions can run high when hunting so look twice, shoot once
* Tell a dependable person where you're hunting and when you plan to return
* If you’re using a tree stand, wear a full body safety harness; 1 in 3 hunters using a tree stand fall from that tree stand
* Always use a cord or rope to raise and lower all equipment in tree stands so you can use three points of contact when climbing up or down which is when most accidents occur

The hunting season brings hazards for non-hunters as well in the form of deer-related vehicle crashes. Deer collisions become more frequent during fall and winter due to deer migration and mating season, which typically occur from October through December. About 1.5 million deer-vehicle collisions happen each year in the U.S. according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Those accidents cause about 150 deaths and $1.1 billion in property damage annually, again according to NHTSA. Be alert! Watch out for wildlife on the roadways!

***As Marines, Sailors and Civilian Marines we live by our ethos. So think before you jeopardize the safety of yourself, your fellow Marines, Sailors, civilian employees or***

***family members, and remember***

***SEMPER SAFE!***

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