

Four basic rules of firearms handling

Hunting is one of the safest ways to enjoy the outdoors. To ensure hunting remains safe and becomes ever safer, the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) recommends hunters and shooters follow four basic rules of firearms safety.

The four basic rules of firearms safety, known by the acronym TABK, are as follows:

T - Treat every firearm as if it were loaded

Never assume a firearm is unloaded.

A - Always point the firearm in a safe direction.

Even if an unwanted discharge occurs no one will be hurt if you always point the gun in a safe direction.

B - Be sure of your target and what is beyond your target.

Make absolutely certain you can positively identify your target and what is beyond it. Make sure there are no other hunters, houses, vehicles, or other animals beyond your target in case your bullet, or shot if you are using a shotgun, misses your target or travels through your target. Never shoot an animal that is on the horizon as you cannot be sure of what is behind that animal.

K - Keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until ready to shoot.

Also, make sure that branches or other objects do not contact the trigger guard or trigger.

Currently, it is estimated more people are injured from

elevated stand-related injuries than all other incidents combined.

"If you are hunting from an elevated stand, make sure you are properly using a full body safety harness, also known as a Fall Arrest System (FAS)," said Wayne East, executive director for IHEA. "Also, make sure you read and follow the manufacturer's directions on proper use of your safety harness."

With some common sense and the proper use of safety equipment, you will ensure that you and others will safely enjoy your hunt.

For more information, visit IHEA.com.

To help spread the word about hunting safety, view and use the following public service announcements for web, print and video at OutdoorRoadmap.com.

About International Hunter Education Association (IHEA)

The International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) is the professional association for the 69 member agencies and the 70,000 volunteer instructors who teach hunter education in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Peru, El Salvador, South Africa and New Zealand. For more information, visit IHEA at www.ihea.com.

Buzzing With Success

[Editor's Note: Ever wonder what the pro anglers consider their "go-to" lures or approaches? You're not alone. Today, Rick Clunn and Stacey King share their ideas for the most important or effective baits you can have in your



Dan Hayes didn't have to travel far from his Blackwell home to pull this large mouth bass out of Oak Creek Lake on June 5, 2011. The big bass mashed the scales at 8.84 pounds.

tackle box and repertory.]

Buzzbaits

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ating a commotion that suggests it is some form of life scurrying for survival.

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You can cover a lot of water quickly with it; attract fish that cannot see your lure; and fish it over, around, and through many forms of cover. Buzzbaits also have a tremendous reputation for attracting big bass.

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