**Safety Topic**

**Hazards of Working on or Near Public or Private Hunting Lands**

During hunting seasons, anyone doing field work on or near public or private hunting lands needs to be aware of the increased hazards around them. Although many hunters practice good hunting safety, taking extra precautions can help reduce risk around your work areas.

# Precautions include:

* When entering wooded areas, use caution and remain alert.
* If possible, check with the landowners prior to entering rights-of-way to determine if hunters are on the property.
* Make noise while walking through wooded areas to make your presence known. If possible, work in pairs and using the “buddy system” talk loudly with one another while moving to your work areas.
* If you hear shooting, announce your presence in a loud voice to make sure hunters are aware you are in the area.
* Wear a blaze orange head covering over your hard hat, particularly a white hard hat. A white hard hat can resemble deer tail from a distance. A bright hunter orange vest or jacket with at least 500 square inches of coverage should be worn. Reflective striping is recommended.
* As non-hunters, you should wear bright clothing. Choose clothing that stands out like orange, bright red, or fluorescent green. Avoid wearing certain colored clothing including whites, blacks, browns, and earth tones.
* Employees working alone should utilize a check-in system to notify their employer when they enter an area to begin their work. Routine check-in times should be established. In lieu of these systems, the employees can utilize “man down” function on their radios and/or smart phones.

# Protect yourself and your co-workers

By following these recommendations, your chances of sustaining an injury from a hunting-related accident can be significantly reduced. As always, familiarize yourself with the hunting rules and regulations of the area in which you are working. Some areas may be off limits except for emergency work during certain hunting seasons.

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