

# Safety Tips for this Hunting Season

By State Rep. Rep. Joe Emrick

**BANGOR** - As you prepare to head out to our fields and forests, be sure to keep safety in mind. The Pennsylvania Game Commission offers these important tips:

## Basic Safety

- Positively identify the target – Be sure you are shooting at legal game and not another hunter. And never shoot at sounds or movement.
- Know your zone of fire and never shoot at game moving between you and someone else.
- Wear the mandated amount of fluorescent orange clothing and use layers of clothing that wick moisture, insulate and block wind or rain to help keep you safe and comfortable.
- Let someone know where you are hunting and when you will return. They should alert authorities if you do not return at the appointed time.
- Carry a basic survival kit and know how to use it.

## Firearms Safety

- Handle all firearms as if they're loaded. Never assume they are unloaded and double check to be sure.
- Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and don't put your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Unload and place your firearm on the ground before crossing a fence, log or other obstacle, or climbing a tree.
- Shoot only when a safe and adequate backstop exists. Don't shoot at hard, flat surfaces, water or a target on the horizon.

For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Game Commission website at [pgc.pa.gov](http://pgc.pa.gov).



## Hunters Can Share Their Harvest

The state Department of Agriculture and Pennsylvania Game Commission are again encouraging hunters to consider sharing their deer harvest to provide thousands of pounds of venison to people in need.

Hunters Sharing the Harvest (HSH) is Pennsylvania's venison donation program for hunters who share their extra venison via a statewide network of participating butchers to food pantries and community assistance centers across the Commonwealth. HSH has distributed 1.5 million pounds of donated venison since 1991. On average, a single deer donated can provide up to 200 meals.

Hunters can donate all or part of a harvested deer by taking it to a participating processor, which will then distribute the ground venison to food banks and pantries. For more information, including a list of participating processors in the area, visit [ShareDeer.org](http://ShareDeer.org).



## Watch for Purple Paint!

Pennsylvania has joined several other states in adopting a "purple paint law," which went into effect last year. The law provides landowners with an alternative to marking their properties as "no trespassing."

Under the law, landowners may paint purple stripes on trees or posts to mark their properties. The lines must be vertical and at least 8 inches long and 1 inch wide. They must be 3 to 5 feet off the ground, readily visible to a person approaching the property and no more than 100 feet apart. While the law does not specify a certain shade of purple, a number of paint manufacturers offer a product called "No Hunting Purple."

The law applies everywhere, except in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties.



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