

# INSTRUCTIONS

## **WARNING**

You must fully read, understand and follow these warnings and instructions (written and video)! Failure to follow these instructions may cause serious injury or death!!

- **WHEN HUNTING FROM A TREESTAND FALLS CAUSING INJURY OR DEATH CAN OCCUR ANY TIME AFTER LEAVING THE GROUND!** FOR THOSE REASONS ALWAYS USE A FALL ARREST SYSTEM (FAS) COMPRISING A FULL BODY HARNESS AT ALL TIMES AFTER LEAVING THE GROUND. YOU MUST STAY CONNECTED AT ALL TIMES AFTER LEAVING THE GROUND WHILE USING ANY ELEVATED HUNTING PLATFORM. SINGLE SAFETY BELTS AND CHEST HARNESSES ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED AND SHOULD NEVER BE USED. IF YOU ARE NOT USING A FULL BODY HARNESS THAT IS PROTECTING YOU FROM A FALL, DO NOT LEAVE THE GROUND!
- READ AND UNDERSTAND THE MANUFACTURER'S WARNINGS, EXPIRATION DATE AND INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO USE AND HOW TO PROPERLY ADJUST THE HARNESS.
- PRACTICE THE USE OF A FULL BODY HARNESS AT GROUND LEVEL IN THE PRESENCE OF A RESPONSIBLE ADULT TO EXPERIENCE THE FEELING OF HANGING SUSPENDED BEFORE USING IN A HUNTING ENVIRONMENT.
- THE LENGTH OF THE HARNESS TETHER MUST BE MINIMIZED AT ALL TIMES. IT SHOULD BE ADJUSTED SO THAT IT IS ABOVE THE HEAD WITH NO SLACK (SNUG) IN THE SITTING POSITION AND YOU SHOULD HAVE THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF SLACK POSSIBLE WHEN CLIMBING.
- NEVER ALLOW THE TETHER STRAP TO GET UNDER YOUR CHIN OR AROUND YOUR NECK!
- **FAILURE TO FOLLOW HARNESS INSTRUCTIONS COULD RESULT IN NOT BEING ABLE TO RETURN TO THE STAND AND BEING SUSPENDED IN A HARNESS AFTER A FALL.** IF THE HUNTING LOCATION IS UNKNOWN BY ANYONE AND COMMUNICATION EFFORTS ARE UNSUCCESSFUL, YOU MUST HAVE A PERSONAL PLAN FOR RECOVERY/ESCAPE BECAUSE PROLONGED SUSPENSION IN A HARNESS CAN BE FATAL. IT IS IMPORTANT TO EXERCISE THE LEGS BY TRYING TO RAISE YOUR KNEES TO YOUR CHEST OR DOING OTHER FORMS OF CONTINUOUS LEG EXERCISES TO AVOID BLOOD POOLING WHILE BEING SUSPENDED. HUNTERS WITH VARYING DEGREES OF PHYSICAL FITNESS MAY REQUIRE DIFFERENT PLANS TO RECOVER/ESCAPE THE EFFECTS OF PROLONGED SUSPENSION. HAVE A PERSONAL PLAN AND PRACTICE IT IN THE PRESENCE OF A RESPONSIBLE ADULT BEFORE LEAVING THE GROUND. NO ONE ESCAPE/RESCUE PLAN WILL WORK FOR EVERY HUNTER ON EVERY TREE IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE. ONLY YOU CAN DETERMINE THE BEST RECOVERY/ESCAPE PLAN FOR YOUR HUNTING SITUATION AND YOU MUST HAVE A RECOVERY/ESCAPE PLAN FOR YOUR SITUATION BEFORE LEAVING THE GROUND.
- HUNT FROM THE GROUND WHEN SELF-RECOVERY/ESCAPE ABILITY IS ABSENT.
- A SUSPENSION RELIEF DEVICE MUST BE ON YOUR PERSON AND READILY ACCESSIBLE WHILE USING A HARNESS. THIS DEVICE WILL ALLOW THE USER TO RELIEVE THE LOAD ON THE LOWER EXTREMITIES IF SUSPENDED IN A HARNESS TO HELP MAINTAIN CIRCULATION IN THE LEGS, MITIGATE SUSPENSION TRAUMA (BLOOD POOLING) OR ALLOW DESCENT TO THE GROUND. BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS ON THE SAFE USE OF ANY SUSPENSION RELIEF DEVICE.
- IN THE EVENT OF A FALL - **DO NOT PANIC!!** - THERE IS TIME TO MAKE A CORRECT DECISION ON WHAT ACTION TO TAKE IF A FALL OCCURS WHILE USING A FULL BODY HARNESS. REMAIN CALM AND IMPLEMENT YOUR PRACTICED RESCUE, RELIEF AND RECOVERY PLAN.

You **MUST** also view the enclosed DVD **BEFORE** using your new treestand!!

### HARNESS WEIGHT LIMITS

#### 250 LBS. TOTAL\*

VIPER ELITE - 81111  
SPECIALIST - 81112

#### 300 LBS. TOTAL\*

VIPER - 81080, 81533, 81109, 81110  
VIPER CLASSIC - 81052, 85129  
ULTIMATE VIPER - 81081  
SUMMIT 180 - 81069  
RAZOR - 81085  
OPENSLOT - 81086  
rsxOSPREY - 82052  
rsxHAWK - 82053  
rsxEAGLE - 82054  
DAGGER - 81091  
BLADE - 81092

#### 350 LBS. TOTAL\*

GOLIATH - 81082, 81532  
180 MAX - 81090  
TITAN - 81083

**DO NOT EXCEED THIS LIMIT!**  
(\* Includes all gear)

© 2012 Summit Treestands, LLC  
715 Summit Dr. Decatur, AL 35601  
(256) 353-0634  
info@summitstands.com  
www.summitstands.com/contactus

## **1** INDEX

GENERAL WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, STAND WEIGHT LIMITS	PG 1
SECTION 1 - INDEX	PG 1
SECTION 2 - CONTENTS	PG 2
SECTION 3 - HARNESS REPLACEMENT	PG 2
SECTION 4 - USE	PG 2 - 5
SECTION 5 - LINEMAN'S BELT	PG 5
SECTION 6 - HARNESS SUSPENSION	PG 6

FORM# 18072, 1/2012

**SUMMIT**  
EST. 1981  
TREESTANDS

**Summit Harness**



## 2 CONTENTS

Please call 256-353-0634 or visit <http://www.summitstands.com/contactus/> if you have any questions, if you need replacement parts, if you have any missing parts or if the included DVD does not play.

- 4 POINT SAFETY HARNESS - INCLUDES ATTACHED SRS STRAP / POUCH 1
- TREESTAND SAFETY STRAP 1
- WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS 1

VIDEO FOOTAGE ON SUMMIT HARNESS AND LINEMAN'S BELT USE IS CONTAINED ON TREESTAND INSTRUCTIONAL DVD.

## 3 HARNESS REPLACEMENT

**YOU MUST REPLACE YOUR SAFETY STRAP / HARNESS UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:**

- AFTER 5 (FIVE) YEARS FROM MANUFACTURE DATE (LOCATED ON HARNESS WARNING LABEL).
- THE SAFETY STRAP / HARNESS HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO SEVERE SHOCK LOADING.
- THE SAFETY STRAP / HARNESS HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE KIND OF OVERLOAD FOR WHICH IT WAS NOT DESIGNED, SUCH AS TOWING A VEHICLE.
- THE SAFETY STRAP / HARNESS SHOWS SIGNS OF FRAYING FROM SUBSTANTIAL USE.
- THE SAFETY STRAP / HARNESS WAS USED IN PREVENTING A FALL.

### ⚠ WARNING

If you fall, you must replace the harness by contacting Summit Treestands, LLC.

This harness has been designed to be used only as a safety device for hunting from elevated treestands and ladder stands. Any other use is **PROHIBITED!**

## 4 USE

### ⚠ WARNING

- Always check to make sure leg straps are secure around legs and buckled before climbing the tree!!!
- Be sure the harness tether strap is attached to safety strap!!
- NEVER ALLOW THE TETHER STRAP TO GET UNDER OR AROUND YOUR NECK as shown in *figure 1*.
- If using harness under hunting clothes, make sure your hunting clothes are not tight around your neck. The harness will slip up if you fall as shown in *figure 2*.
- Always check harness webbing and hardware before every use for any damaged or worn stitching, webbing or hardware. If you find a problem, **DO NOT** use the harness until the problem has been resolved by Summit Treestands, LLC.

### ⚠ WARNING

NEVER ALLOW THE TETHER STRAP TO GET UNDER OR AROUND YOUR NECK!



### PUTTING ON THE HARNESS

1. Buckle the main belt around your waist. Thread the buckle as shown in *figure 3*. Adjust belt strap by pulling on tag end (*figure 4*) until comfortably snug as shown in *figure 5*.



TAG END



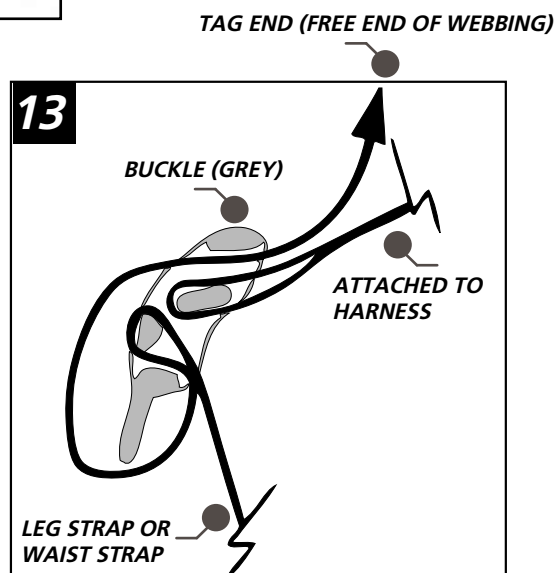
**PUTTING ON THE HARNESS (continued)**

2. Slip your arms through the shoulder straps as you would a jacket. Be sure the shoulder straps do not cross each other and are not twisted. Adjust the 3-bar slide on each shoulder strap until the shoulder straps and waist belt are comfortably snug as shown in **figure 6** and **figure 7**.

3. Bring leg strap **BEHIND** the leg then between the legs to the front. Leg straps can cross over or under the leg buckle strap as shown in **figure 8**.



4. Thread leg strap through leg buckle as shown in **figure 9**. Pull tag end of leg strap to adjust fit as shown in **figure 10**. Leg strap should be comfortably snug (see **figure 11**). Pull the tag end of the leg strap back through the buckle as shown in **figure 12** and in **figure 13**.



**ATTACHING THE TREESTAND SAFETY STRAP TO THE TREE**

**⚠️ WARNING**

**NEVER** disconnect from your safety harness or your safety line once you are off the ground!

**⚠️ WARNING**

When attaching the treestand safety strap to the tree, be sure the free end is fed completely through the tether loop on the harness as shown in **figure 14**. Do this **BEFORE** you begin to climb with a climbing treestand.

**ALWAYS ADJUST THE SAFETY STRAP TO MINIMIZE THE SLACK WHILE YOU ARE CLIMBING.**

1. Hold the safety strap buckle in one hand and loop the free end completely around the tree. See **figure 15**.

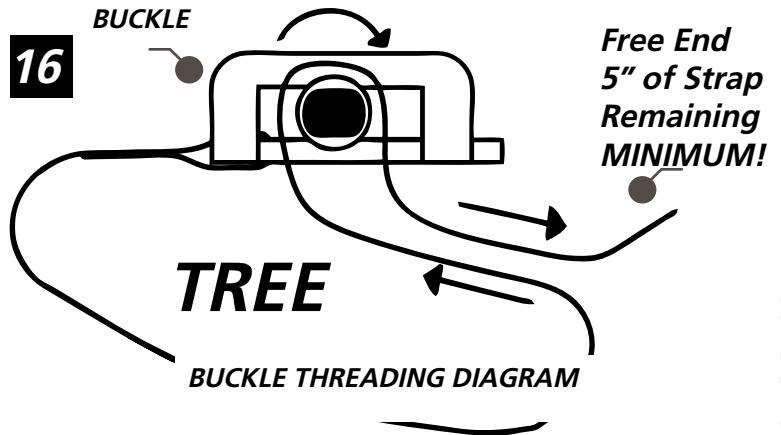
2. Thread the free end into the buckle as shown in **figure 16 (Buckle Threading Diagram)** and **figure 17**. The free end should be brought into the buckle from behind.

3. Loop the free end of the safety strap over the knurled metal post on the buckle and route it out the backside as shown in **figure 18**.

**⚠️ WARNING**

**ALWAYS** confirm the safety strap buckle has been threaded properly before use.

4. Pull the free end snug but do not cinch down at this point. See **figure 19**.



**⚠️ WARNING**

**DO NOT USE** unless the safety strap has at least 5" of free end strap remaining after you have secured the strap to the tree!



**⚠️ WARNING**

**ALWAYS** confirm that the safety strap does not slip when pulling on the harness tether! **DO NOT USE** if the webbing slips through the buckle!

**Using the Harness and Safety Strap**

1. Position the safety strap as high on the tree as possible while still allowing yourself enough slack to sit on the treestand climbing bar, seat or rest on the arm rests. The safety strap should be loose enough to provide you with slack but not so loose that it slides down the tree. See **figure 20**.

2. Following the specific treestand instructions included with your stand, climb up the tree until you reach the location of your safety strap.

**⚠️ WARNING**

**NEVER** disconnect from your safety line once you are in the tree!!



3. Once you have reached the strap, engage the platform and seat climber. Slide the safety rope up the tree. While climbing, adjustments to the harness attachment to the tree should be frequent and coordinated with treestand movement to maintain the least amount of slack in the tether that will allow for climbing. **Repeat Steps 1-3** until you are at your hunting height.

4. When you achieve your hunting height, position the safety strap as high as possible while still allowing you room to sit comfortably in the treestand seat as shown in **figure 21**. Cinch the strap tight to the tree making sure there are no twists in the webbing. Pull down on the harness tether to ensure the safety strap is tight. **See figure 22.**



**The length of the harness tether must be minimized at all times.** It should be adjusted so that it is above the head with no slack (snug) in the sitting position and you should have the minimum amount of slack possible when climbing.

## 5 LINEMAN'S BELT

If you purchased a Summit non-climbing treestand, you received a lineman's style climbing belt.

### ⚠️ WARNING

**The use of a Lineman's climbing belt is required when installing a hang-on treestand**

Your harness has two loops sewn on the sides of the harness belt. These loops allow you to use the harness with a lineman's-style climbing belt. This will assist you while ascending and descending, installing climbing sticks and installing your hang-on treestand.

### USE

1. Insert the sewn end of the strap through one of the loops on the Summit Harness Waist Belt as shown in **figure 23**.

2. Bring the strap around your back and thread it through the other loop on the Harness Waist Belt. See **figure 24**.

3. Run the belt around the tree and thread it through the buckle as shown in **figure 25 and in the Buckle Threading Diagram on Page 4**.

4. To adjust the climbing belt, pull on the loose free end to tighten and lift up on the buckle to lengthen. **See figure 26 and figure 27.**

5. As you ascend and descend the tree you will be able to stay attached to your safety harness by using the extra treestand safety strap as a lineman's climbing strap. You will alternate from climbing strap to safety strap as you encounter branches or as you maneuver above your hang-on treestand. Attach the safety strap as explained in **Page 4**.

6. Once you are on your treestand platform, position and attach your treestand safety strap to the tree as shown on **Page 4**. Once you are properly connected, **THEN AND ONLY THEN** should you remove your lineman's hookup.

7. Position the safety strap as high as possible while still allowing you room to sit comfortably in the treestand seat. The length of the harness tether must be minimized at all times. It should be adjusted so that it is above the head with no slack (snug) in the sitting position.

When using a fixed position stand, we recommend using the "Climbing System" or secondary safety rope to increase your safety during the ascend and descent.

You can see the Summit Climbing System (Summit PN 83014) in our catalog or on the web at [www.summitstands.com](http://www.summitstands.com).



SEWN HARNESS LOOPS



# 6 HARNESS SUSPENSION

It is necessary and very important that someone knows your hunting location and time of return. It is also very important that you carry (on your person) emergency communication devices such as a cell phone, two-way radio, whistle, signal flare or preferably a PLD (Personal Locator Device - FCC approved July, '03). When triggered, a PLD will transmit an emergency signal to local rescue teams identifying your location via satellite GPS coordinates. PLD's may be purchased at Wilderness outfitters or on the internet.

## Use of the Suspension Relief Strap

Suspension trauma or blood pooling can occur when suspended motionless in a harness for periods of time. This can lead to unconsciousness and death.



**⚠ WARNING**  
If you have to hang in the tree before help arrives, you need to exercise your legs by pushing off from the tree, raising your knees to your chest or by using the attached suspension relief strap.

**⚠ WARNING**  
This Suspension Relief Strap **MUST** be on your person and accessible while using your harness!!! The steps below assume you are hanging by your tether line after a fall.



1. Retrieve the Suspension Relief Strap (SRS) from the storage pouch on the side of the harness. *See figure 28.*
2. One end of the SRS strap will be pre-attached to your harness shown in *figure 29 position A.*
3. Tie the other end of the SRS to the harness belt loop as show in *figure 29 position B.* Adjust the SRS so the large loop it forms is just above the ankles - *figure 30.*
4. Put both feet in the loop and stand up to relieve the pressure from the harness leg straps. See *figure 31 and figure 32.* **NOTE:** Readjust the length of the loop if considerable pressure is still felt on the leg straps.

**⚠ WARNING**  
Prolonged harness suspension may be fatal. If rescue personnel cannot be notified, you must have a plan to recover / escape before hunting.



Self extraction may be necessary in the unfortunate situation that A) No one knows your location, B) Your communication efforts are exhausted, C) You are confident that you have the strength, dexterity and ability to perform self-extraction and D) You decide this is your "absolute last resort". It is necessary to carry a device to assist with this self-extraction. Simple devices such as screw-in steps or a rope "Tree Descender" (available from Summit) will allow you to remove the weight from your harness. This may enable you to return to the treestand/ladder/climbing steps or slowly descend the tree.

Several optional products/systems are available that offer self-recovery or self extraction from a fall when suspended in a harness. Returning to the ground obviously also relieves suspension trauma and some systems automatically descend the user while others allow user control. If one of these products/systems is selected for use as an additional safety precaution against prolonged suspension, be sure to follow the manufacturers' directions for safe use.

