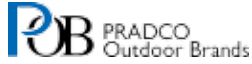




# SOP - Climbing System Instructions



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**ROPE WEIGHT LIMITS  
300 LBS. TOTAL\***

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

 **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 WEAR 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 WEARING 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 ROPE TO GET UNDER YOUR CHIN OR AROUND YOUR NECK!
- **A FALL CAN OCCUR AT ANY TIME AFTER LEAVING THE GROUND!** 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 AND PREVENT SUSPENSION TRAUMA (BLOOD POOLING). 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 WEARING A FULL BODY HARNESS. REMAIN CALM AND IMPLEMENT YOUR PRACTICED RESCUE, RELIEF AND RECOVERY PLAN.

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## ⚠ WARNING

MAKE SURE YOUR PRUSIK HITCH LOOKS LIKE THIS PICTURE BEFORE USING!

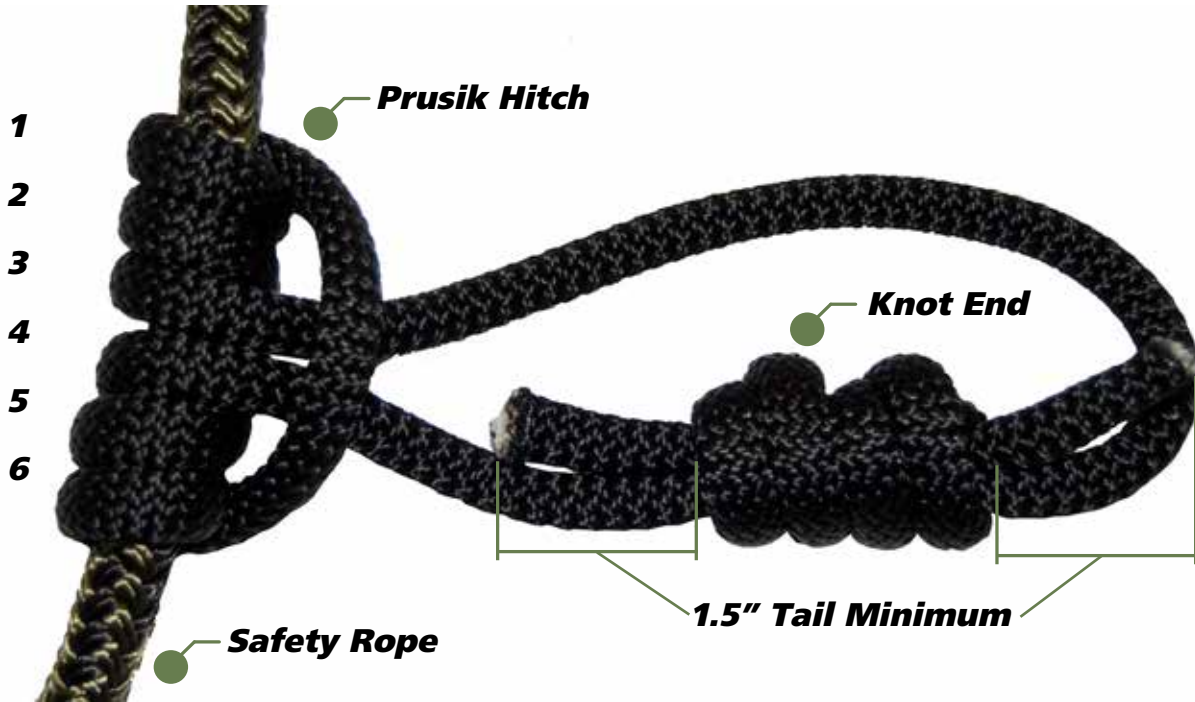
**NEVER USE** unless your Prusik hitch has 6 (six) loops!

**NEVER USE** unless your Prusik hitch has a 1.5" long tails (minimum) beyond the knot end!

**ALWAYS** Pull on the knot end of the Prusik hitch and make sure it locks to the safety rope.

**NEVER USE** your harness unless your Prusik hitch looks like the one pictured here. In addition,

**ALWAYS MAKE SURE** the hitch locks to the safety rope when you pull on the knot end.



## 2 CONTENTS

Please call 256-353-0634 or visit <http://www.summitstands.com/contactus/> if you have any questions, if you need replacement parts, or if you have any missing parts.

To use this product with the standard OEM Summit Harness you must purchase a locking carabineer - PN 83011 - available on our website [www.summitstands.com](http://www.summitstands.com).

- PN 83014 - 1 (one) 30' Climbing Rope with attached Prusik Hitch, 1 (one) carrying bag
- PN 83024 - 3 (three) 30' Climbing Ropes with attached Prusik Hitch

**VIDEO FOOTAGE ON SOP HARNESS AND LINEMAN'S BELT USE IS CONTAINED ON THE INSTRUCTIONAL DVD PROVIDED WITH YOUR HARNESS.**

## 3 ROPE REPLACEMENT

**YOU MUST REPLACE YOUR CLIMBING SYSTEM ROPE / HARNESS UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:**

- THE CLIMBING SYSTEM ROPE / HARNESS HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO SEVERE SHOCK LOADING.
- THE CLIMBING SYSTEM ROPE / HARNESS HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE KIND OF OVERLOAD FOR WHICH IT WAS NOT DESIGNED, SUCH AS TOWING A VEHICLE.
- THE CLIMBING SYSTEM ROPE / HARNESS SHOWS SIGNS OF FRAYING FROM SUBSTANTIAL USE OR THE Climbing system rope / **PRUSIK HITCH HAS BEEN LEFT IN THE WEATHER AND HAS BECOME HARD OR STIFF.**
- THE CLIMBING SYSTEM ROPE / HARNESS WAS USED IN PREVENTING A FALL.

## ⚠ WARNING

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

This rope 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

## ATTACHING THE CLIMBING SYSTEM ROPE

The SOP Climbing system is designed to be used with hang-on, fixed position or ladder stands. It can also be used with climbing treestands but typically the supplied shorter climbing system ropes will work better with those types of stands.

**Step 1.** Put your harness on. Always ensure that it is properly attached and adjusted.

**Step 2.** Using a Lineman's Belt and following any manufacturers instructions, setup your hang-on, fixed position or ladder treestand.

**Step 3.** Using a Lineman's Belt, climb to your hang-on, fixed position or ladder treestand.

### ⚠ WARNING

**NEVER** disconnect from your safety harness or your climbing system rope once you are off the ground!

The adjustable Prusik hitch should be snug to the climbing system rope. It should be tight when sliding it on the climbing system rope. If necessary, gently pull on the Prusik loop to increase the tension of the Prusik on the climbing system rope.

**Step 4.** Put the loop end of the climbing system rope around the tree.

**Step 5.** Thread the knot end and the adjustable Prusik hitch all the way through the loop end of the climbing system rope (see figure 1).

### ⚠ WARNING

When attaching the treestand climbing system rope to the tree, be sure the adjustable Prusik hitch has been fed completely through the loop at the end of the climbing system rope as shown in figure 1.

**Step 6.** Open the Prusik hitch loop and insert the harness tether safety clip through the loop as shown in figure 2 (sop harness shown). Be sure the knot at the end of the prusik hitch is tight and that it has at least 3" of rope as a tail (See Diagram page 2 of this instruction book.) Screw the locking collar COMPLETELY closed to secure the safety clip.

### ⚠ WARNING

**ALWAYS** confirm the carabiner locking collar has been completely screwed closed to secure the safety clip

**Step 7.** Pull on the end of the prusik hitch to secure it to the climbing system rope. See figure 3.

## USING THE CLIMBING SYSTEM

**Step 1.** Always adjust the climbing system rope so the amount of slack in the tether / climbing system rope is minimized as shown in figure 4.

### ⚠ WARNING

**NEVER** allow more than 24 inches total combined slack in the climbing system rope and harness tether strap.

### ⚠ WARNING

**ALWAYS** refer to your harness instructions for proper use of your fall arrest system.





## DESCENDING THE TREE

**Step 1.** When you are ready to descend the tree, do not disconnect your harness tether from the Climbing System rope. Climb down the tree as normal sliding the prusik hitch down as you go. (See figure 5)

### ⚠️ WARNING

**ALWAYS** keep the prusik hitch above your head when ascending or descending the tree as shown in figure 6.

### ⚠️ WARNING

**Never** hold the prusik hitch as you climb (figure 7). **Always** adjust the hitch to the desired height, release the rope and hold on to a ladder section or climbing sticks while ascending or descending the tree.

**Step 2.** Make small, frequent adjustments of the Prusik hitch as you climb down. In the event of a fall the Prusik hitch is designed to cinch down onto the climbing system rope.

### ⚠️ WARNING

**ALWAYS** adjust the Prusik hitch to minimize the slack while you are climbing.

**Step 3.** Once you are on the ground and disconnected from your climbing system rope, tie the base of the rope around the tree. This will allow you to slide the Prusik hitch up as you climb.

### ⚠️ WARNING

**ALWAYS** remove your Climbing System ropes at the end of each deer season. **If the climbing rope starts to feel stiff to the touch you must replace the rope.**

## ASCENDING THE TREE

**Step 1.** Your Climbing System should still be connected to the tree above your treestand.

### ⚠️ WARNING

**ALWAYS** inspect the Climbing System rope carefully before each use. If any signs of fraying, or any other damage is observed, **DO NOT USE** the rope. Contact Summit for the proper replacement procedure.

**Step 2. Following Steps 6 and 7 on Page 3,** connect your harness tether to the Prusik Hitch.

**Step 3.** Slide the Prusik Hitch up on the climbing system rope.

**Step 4.** Climb to your treestand, always maintaining three points of contact on your climbing sticks or ladder. When you reach the location of the Prusik Hitch, slide it further up the rope and continue climbing.

### ⚠️ WARNING

**ALWAYS** keep the prusik hitch above your head when ascending or descending the tree as shown in figure 6.

### ⚠️ WARNING

**Never** hold the prusik hitch as you climb (figure 7). **Always** adjust the hitch to the desired height, release the rope and hold on to a ladder section or climbing sticks while ascending or descending the tree.

## 5 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.

Suspension trauma or blood pooling can occur when suspended motionless in a harness for periods of time. This can lead to unconsciousness and death. **If a suspension relief strap is furnished with your harness, use it.** Read your harness instructions to assure that you know how to use it.

### ⚠️ WARNING

If you have to hang in the tree before help arrives, you need to exercise your legs by pushing off from the tree or by using the enclosed suspension relief strap. See the treestand harness instructions and the enclosed instructions for more information.

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 recommended 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.

## 6 LIMITED WARRANTY

### (A) Warranty

Summit Treestands, LLC (Summit) warrants to the original retail purchaser that all products manufactured by it are free from defects in material and manufacture at the time of shipment for sixty (60) months from the date of purchase. Summit will repair or replace any part found defective if the unit claimed to be defective shall be returned to Summit, postage prepaid, within the warranty period.

This warranty shall not apply to any product which has been subjected to misuse; misapplication; neglect (including but not limited to improper maintenance); accident; improper installation; modification (including but not limited to use of unauthorized parts or attachments); adjustment or repair. THE FOREGOING IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED (INCLUDING THOSE OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS OF ANY PRODUCT FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE), AND OF ANY OTHER OBLIGATION OF LIABILITY ON THE PART OF THE COMPANY.

### (B) Limitation of Liability

It is expressly understood that Summit's liability for its products, whether due to breach of warranty, negligence, strict liability, or otherwise, is limited to the repair of the product, as stated above, and Summit will not be liable for any other injury, loss, damage, or expense, whether direct or consequential, including but not limited to loss of use, income, profit, or damage to material, arising in connection with the sale, installation, use of, inability to use, or the repair or replacement of Summit's products.

Summit reserves the right to make alterations or modifications in its products at any time, which in its opinion, may improve the performance and efficiency of the product. It shall not be obligated to make such alterations or modifications to products already in service.