

Summit Harness Instruction Booklet - 2008

Please read carefully BEFORE using your new Summit Safety Harness.

Congratulations! You have purchased the finest commercially available hunting harness on the market today. Summit Harnesses are designed and built to provide years of trouble-free, successful hunting with a minimum of maintenance and care. They are certified to meet the requirements of the Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) Standards. This booklet is provided to you to outline the recommended use, care and maintenance of your Summit Safety Harness.



WARNING

You must fully read, understand and follow these warnings, expiration date and instructions! Failure to follow these instructions may cause serious injury or death!!

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

WEIGHT LIMIT: 300 LBS.

GOLIATH / 180 MAX / TITAN

WEIGHT LIMIT: 350LBS.

DO NOT EXCEED THIS LIMIT!

WHEN TO REPLACE YOUR SAFETY STRAP / HARNESS:

- **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.**
- **BEFORE USING ANY TREESTAND, BE SURE YOU MAINTAIN FULL BODY SAFETY HARNESS ATTACHMENT TO THE TREE AT ALL TIMES AFTER LEAVING 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.**
- **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 PUSHING AGAINST THE TREE 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.**
- **IN THE EVENT OF A FALL - DON'T PANIC!! - THERE IS TIME TO MAKE A CORRECT DECISION ON WHAT ACTION TO TAKE IF A FALL OCCURS WHILE WEARING A FULL BODY HARNESS.**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS FALL ARREST SYSTEM OR ITS USE, CALL OR E-MAIL US BEFORE USE!

(256) 353-0634 -- WWW.SUMMITSTANDS.COM

Harness Packaging:

The harness package contains one (1) harness, one (1) Treestand Safety Strap, one (1) Attached pouch with Suspension Relief Pouch and instructions.

⚠️ 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 wearing 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

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!**

Section 1 - Harness Instructions:

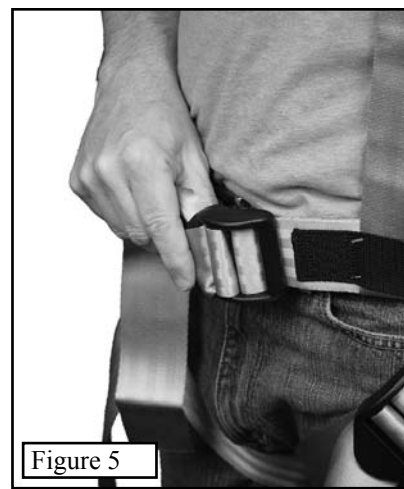
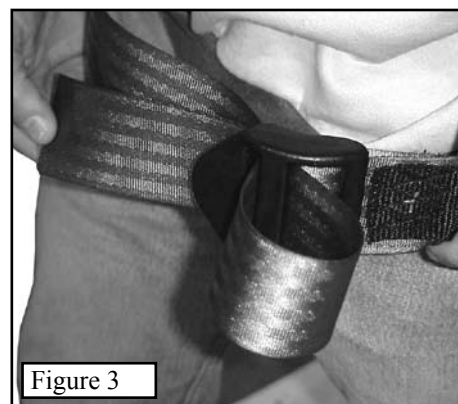
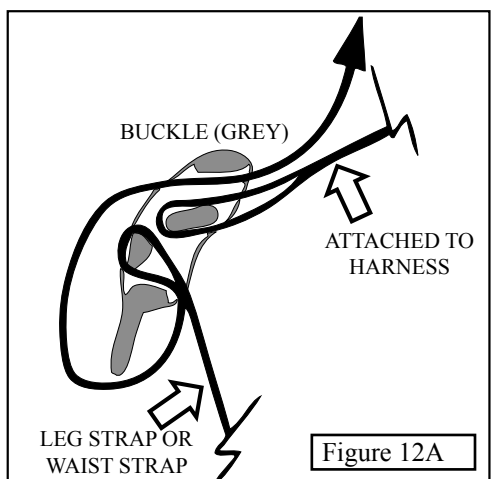
Part 1. Putting on the Harness:

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

Step 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*.

Step 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*.

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



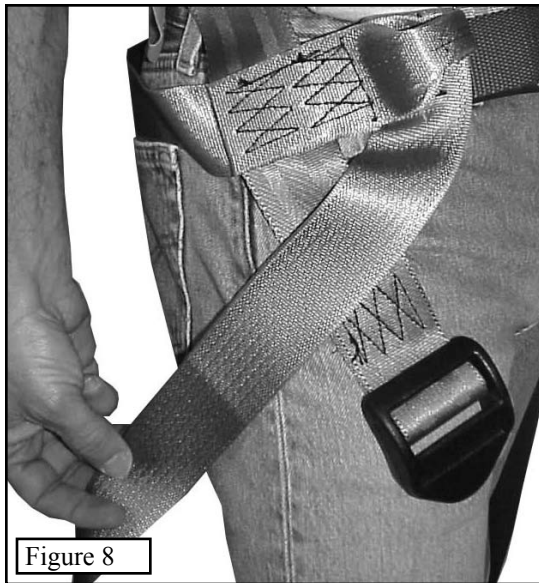


Figure 8

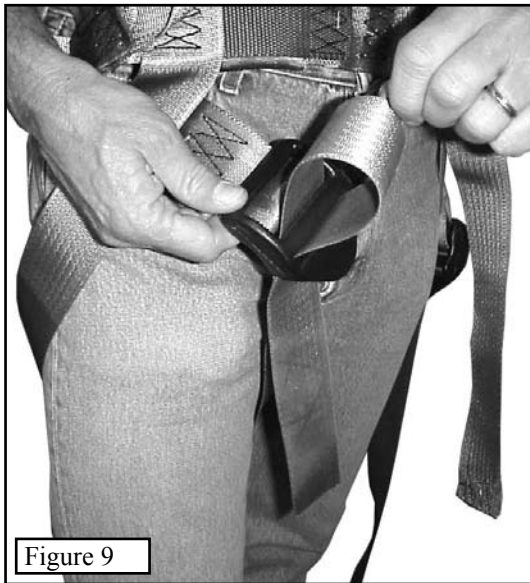


Figure 9

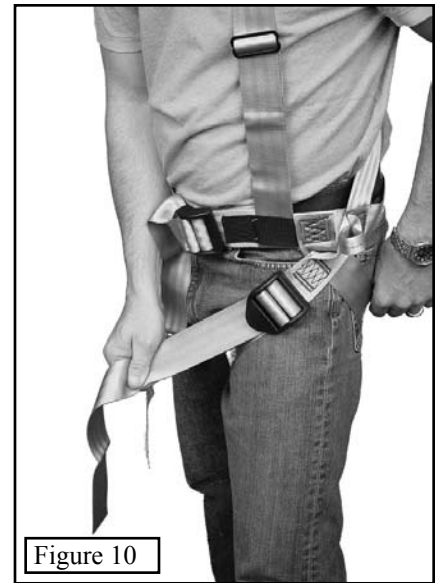


Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

Part 2. Attaching the Treestand Safety Strap to the Tree.

⚠ 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 13**. Do this **BEFORE** you begin to climb with a climbing treestand.

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

⚠ WARNING

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

Step 1. Hold the safety strap buckle in one hand and loop the free end completely around the tree. See **Figure 14**.

Step 2. Thread the free end into the buckle as shown in **Figure 15**. The free end should be brought into the buckle from behind as shown in the **Figure 14B to the Right**.

Step 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 16** and in the **Figure 14B to the Right**.

⚠ WARNING

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

Step 4. Pull the free end snug but do not cinch down at this point. See **Figure 17**.

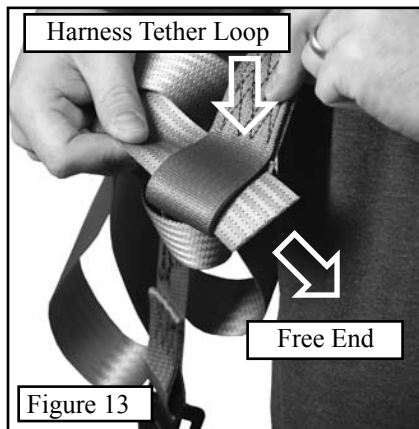


Figure 13

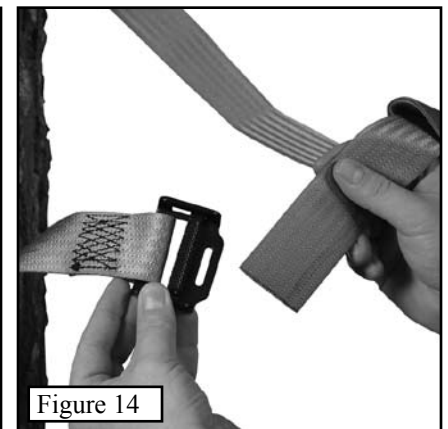


Figure 14

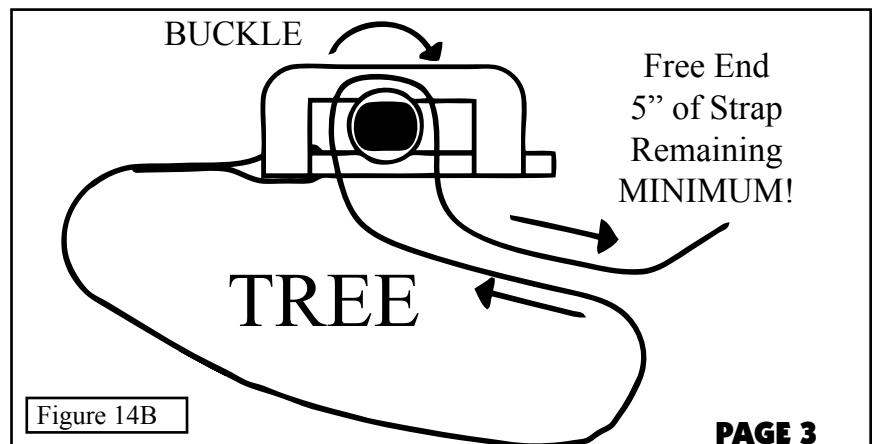


Figure 14B

⚠ 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!

⚠ 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!

Part 3. Using the Harness and Safety Strap.

Step 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 18.*

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

Step 3. Once you have reached the strap, engage the platform and top. Slide the safety rope up the tree as you climb. 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.

Step 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 19*. 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 20.*

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.

⚠ WARNING

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

Part 3. Using the Supplied Climbing belt:

If you purchased the Copperhead Compact, Deer Deck or Deer Deck Like non-climbing treestand, you received a lineman's style climbing belt. Your harness has loops sewn on the sides of the harness belt. These loops allow you to use the harness as a lineman's-style climbing belt. This will assist you while ascending and descending, installing climbing sticks and installing your hang-on treestand.

Step 1. Insert the sewn end of the strap through one of the loops on the Summit Harness belt as shown in *Figure 21*.

Step 2. Bring the strap around your back and thread it through the other loop on the Harness belt. *See Figure 22.*

Step 3. Run the belt around the tree and thread it through the buckle as shown in *Figure 23 and in the Buckle Threading Diagram on Page 3.*

Step 4. To adjust the climbing belt, pull on the loose free end to tighten and lift up on the buckle to lengthen. *See Figure 24 and Figure 25.*



Figure 15

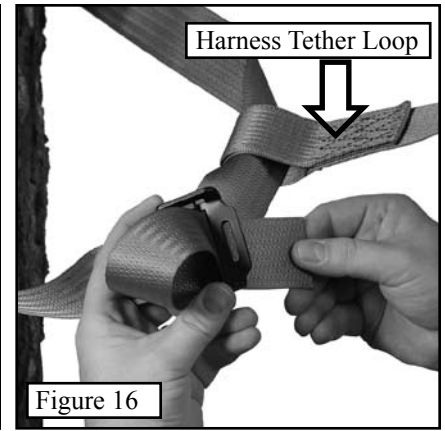


Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19

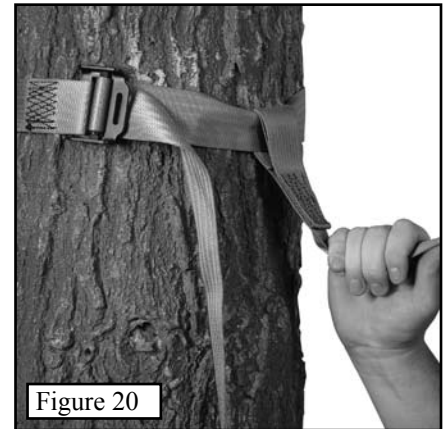


Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22

Step 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 **Section 1.**

Step 6. Once you are on your treestand platform, position and attach your treestand safety strap to the tree as shown in **Section 1, Part 2.** Once you are properly connected, **THEN AND ONLY THEN** should you remove your lineman's hookup.

Step 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.

Helpful Hints:

1. In the event of a fall, you must be prepared to recover. Since you may not be able reach your stand, you should carry a Tree Descender rope (available from Summit Treestands, LLC) or some other device to allow for a controlled descent. There may be products/equipment marketed for self rescue from suspension in a harness and you are strongly urged to seek them out
2. If you will be bow hunting, you need to make sure you position the safety strap high enough above your head so the tether strap will not be in the way when you draw your bow.
3. Always pick your harness up by the tether strap. This will help keep your harness tangle-free.

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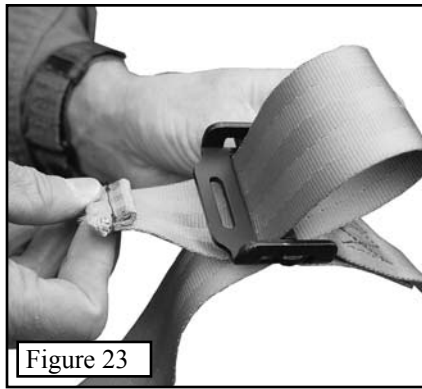


Figure 23



Figure 24

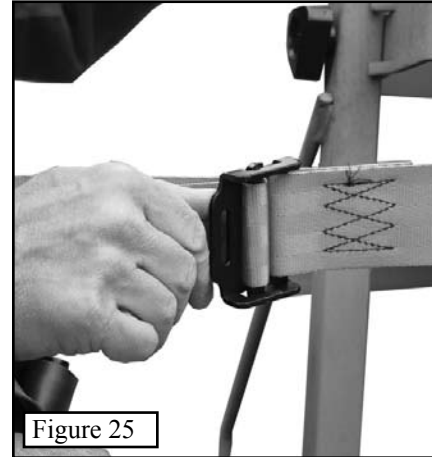


Figure 25

Summit products are manufactured under one or more of the following US Patents: 5,937,969; 5,971,104; 5,975,242; 5,979,603; 6,125,966; 6,182,792; 6,397,973; D,417,011; D,420,147

Summit Bucksteps and RapidClimb Stirrups are Patent Pending

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.

Section 2 - Harness Suspension / Use of Suspension Relief Strap:

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.

⚠ 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 attached suspension relief strap.

Use of the 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.

Step 1. Retrieve the Suspension Relief Strap (SRS) from the storage pouch on the side of the harness. *See Figure 26.*

Step 2. Tie one end of the SRS to one of the Climbing Strap loops sewn into each side of the harness belt. *See Figure 27 position A.*

Step 3. Tie the other end of the SRS to the opposite harness belt loop as show in *Figure 27 position B.* Adjust the SRS so the large loop it forms is just above the ankles - *Figure 28.*

Step 4. Put both feet in the loop and stand up to relieve the pressure from the harness leg straps. *See Figure 29 and Figure 30.* **NOTE:** Readjust the length of the loop if considerable pressure is still felt on the leg straps.

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.

⚠ WARNING

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



Figure 26

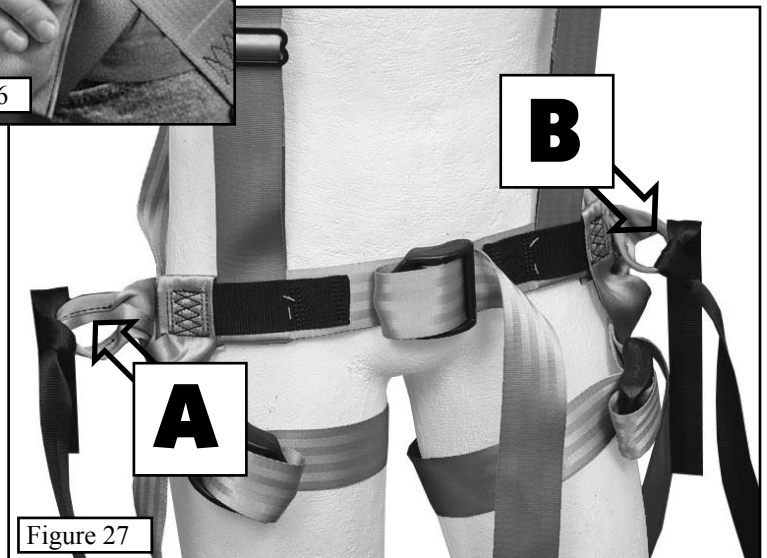


Figure 27



Figure 28



Figure 29

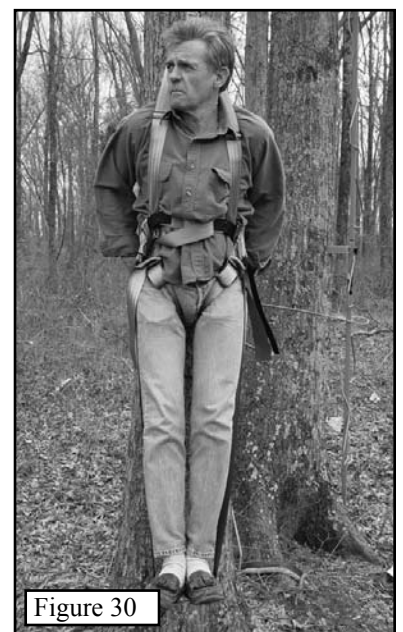


Figure 30