

# **HSS Lil' Tree Stalker Vest/Harness Instruction and Safe Use Manual**

**Hunter Safety System vest/harness with suspension  
relief/deer drag strap. Model HSS-8**



**WARNING! Any person under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied and supervised at all times by a responsible adult while wearing the Lil' Tree Stalker harness. The supervising adult must read, watch and make sure the young person follows all written and video instructions prior to using any part of this product. Failure to read, watch, understand and follow this information could result in not being able to return to the stand and being suspended in the harness after a fall and cause serious injury or death! Call 1-877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative BEFORE this harness or any portion of this package is used if there is ANYTHING about these products or instructions you do not understand! If you call after hours or when a company representative is not available, do not use this product until you speak to an HSS representative who clarifies anything you don't understand.**

**Warning! This harness DOES NOT include a lineman's climbing strap or a place to attach one! It is not intended for young hunters under 16 years of age to hang treestands, ladder sticks, or work above ground level with this harness.**

# Harness parts for model HSS-8, Lil' Tree Stalker. Examine all components before using your Safety System- vest/harness.

This package must contain: Instruction and safe use booklet, instructional video, tree strap, suspension relief/deer drag strap, safety system (vest/harness). Although every component has been checked for quality assurance by HSS, items must be examined by a responsible, supervising adult before each use. Call 1-877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative before use if any of the above contents is missing or defects appear present.



**Supervise Our Youth Whenever This Harness is Worn!  
Let's Keep Our Young People Safe!**



## WARNING!!!

### Below are identified critical issues regarding the use of HSS products and/or hunting from an elevated position!

1. **Warning!** Any person under 16 years of age wearing the LIL' Treestalker Safety System MUST be accompanied by a supervising adult at all times. This is especially true while positioned in a treestand or any platform located above ground level, while ascending to the treestand, or descending from it. Let's protect our youth!
2. **Warning!** Any adult who is supervising a youth or minor using this HSS product MUST review and become familiar with all harness adjustments and safe use instructions. He/she MUST assist and oversee all safe use aspects of the product as well as assist the young person or minor wearing the LIL' Treestalker Safety System with any necessary adjustments. He/she MUST also secure the young person or minor to the tree each time it is used. DO NOT allow the youth or minor to attach him/herself to or from the tree!
3. **Warning!** HSS requires that everyone using a Hunter Safety System Lil' Treestalker harness be attached to the tree from the moment they leave the ground until they return to the ground. This can be accomplished with the use of the HSS Life Line, which is sold separately as an accessory or another similar product made by a different manufacturer. The HSS Life Line can be purchased at various sporting goods stores, by calling 877-296-3528, or from [www.hssvest.com](http://www.hssvest.com). HSS **STRONGLY** recommends the use of the Life Line with the Lil' Treestalker Safety System/ Harness.
4. **Warning!** The loop located on the lower, rear portion of the harness is to be used for suspension relief/deer drag purposes ONLY. This should NEVER be used to attach or secure you to the tree.
5. **Warning!** Never wrap the harness's tether around or across your neck or under your arms.
6. **Warning!** In the event of a fall, DO NOT PANIC! Put your practiced self recover plan into action, ie suspension relief, self recovery, or other means of rescue.
7. **Warning!** NEVER drag an animal or weight that may cause injury to your back, leg bones or muscles. If you are presently or have ever experienced problems with your back, bones, legs or muscles, DO NOT use the HSS harness and deer drag strap to drag anything!
8. **Warning!** Anytime the tether is not attached to the tree, your HSS harness is not considered a fall restraint device!
9. **Warning!** If there is ANYTHING about this or any *Hunter Safety System* product or its instructions that you do not understand, call 1-877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative BEFORE using it!
10. **Warning!** NEVER exceed the total weight limit (yourself and gear) specified for the particular model harness you wear.
11. **Warning!** DO NOT use this product or hunt from an elevated platform while using drugs of any type without approval from your personal physician. This can impair your balance, judgment and ability to safely hunt from an elevated position.
12. **Warning!** DO NOT modify, repair, alter, sew, or cut this product in any way. Doing so may cause serious injury or death.
13. **Warning!** DO NOT use this product or hunt from an elevated platform unless you are well rested and alert, or if you have in the past or are presently experiencing any back or heart problems or medical condition that could cause a problem while above ground level. You MUST be physically and mentally able to recover to the stand platform or ground in the event of a fall.
14. **Warning!** Inspect belts, buckles and tree straps prior to each use. Do not use this vest/harness if any of the components are not working properly, damaged, or show signs of wear.
15. **Warning!** If you have purchased this harness in a sealed package with all instructions, warnings and items listed on page 1 of this instructional booklet, the harness must be removed from service five years from the date of purchase. (Be sure to keep your proof of purchase) If you have purchased or obtained this harness as a previously used harness, it must be removed from service five years from the date of manufacture. This date is printed on the tether label.

# Using your LIL' Treestalker Safety System

**WARNING! Read, watch, understand and follow all written and video instructions prior to using this safety system. Youth or minors under 16 years of age must be instructed and supervised on instructions and all aspects of safe use by a responsible adult. Failure to read, watch, understand and follow this information can cause serious injury or death! If there is anything about this product, its instructions or usage you do not understand, call 877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative BEFORE using this safety system.**

**NOTE:** We at Hunter Safety System Inc. understand the importance of spending time with our youth in the outdoors. They are God's gift to each of us, and they need our protection. Please read and follow all instructions giving constant attention to youth's safety. Let's keep our young ones safe!

## Vital Information To Note BEFORE The Lil' Treestalker Is Worn

1. The HSS Youth Model safety system was designed for and intended for use by young and small hunters who weigh between 50 and 120-pounds. Even when the hunter's weight falls within these limits, if the safety system, its straps or buckles do not adjust to be comfortably snug enough to secure the body during a fall, DO NOT USE IT! If you have any doubts whatsoever about its effectiveness, DO NOT USE IT. Call 877-296-3528 to discuss this or any other matter of concern relating to this or any HSS product.
2. **Warning!** Any person under 16 years of age wearing the LIL' Treestalker Safety System MUST be accompanied by a supervising adult at all times. This is especially true while positioned in a treestand or any platform located above ground level, while ascending to the treestand, descending from it or any area of safe use. Let's protect our youth!
3. **Warning!** Any adult who is supervising a youth or minor using this HSS product MUST review and become familiar with all harness adjustments and safe use instructions. He/she MUST assist and oversee all safe use aspects of the product as well as assist the young person or minor wearing the LIL' Treestalker Safety System with any necessary adjustments. He/she MUST also secure the young person or minor to the tree each time it is used. DO NOT allow the youth or minor to attach him/herself to or from the tree!
4. **Warning!** HSS requires that everyone using a Hunter Safety System Lil' Treestalker harness be attached to the tree from the moment they leave the ground until they return to the ground. This can be accomplished with the use of the HSS Life Line, which is sold separately as an accessory (Figure 1) or another similar product made by a different manufacturer. The HSS Life Line can be purchased at various sporting goods stores, by calling 877- 296-3528, or from [www.hssvest.com](http://www.hssvest.com). HSS **STRONGLY** recommends the use of the Life Line with the Lil' Treestalker Safety System.
5. Watch and become familiar with the enclosed DVD. If you have ANY questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about the safe use of the HSS harness, call 877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative prior to using it. The supervising adult MUST instruct and supervise the youth or minor at all times on all safety features, usage and any issues relating to the HSS Safety System to ensure that the youth follows ALL safety instructions correctly.



Figure 1  
HSS Strongly recommends the use of the HSS Life Line with the Lil' Tree Stalker Safety System!



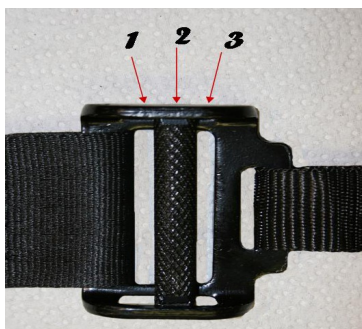
Figure 2  
Slide the adjustment slide-bar forward or back until the safety System vest/harness is snug to the body

## Adjusting the Lil' Treestalker Harness

1. Put the Lil' Tree Stalker Safety System on the youth and securely fasten the waist buckle together. Listen for a secure and complete snap that indicates it is locked in place and no clothing is caught in the buckle. Tug sharply on the webbing to ensure the buckle is locked and securely closed. Locate the adjustment 3-bar slide on the waist strap. Depending on the waist size, this may be located near the rear of the unit.
2. Slide the 3-bar slide forward or back to adjust the vest comfortably snug to his/her body. (Figure 2) The vest and harness should adjust to accommodate both light and heavy clothing. The harness/vest should be comfortably snug, not too tight or too loose.
3. Snap the smaller, chest buckle in place and adjust the two at the side of the vest. These buckles are intended to be used only to hold the vest's sides together, not as part of the fall restraint features.
4. Release each leg strap buckle and bring them between the legs of the youth, left strap-left leg, right strap-right leg, and securely snap them together. Listen for a secure and complete snap that indicates they are locked in place and have no clothing caught in the buckle. Tug sharply on each leg strap to ensure the buckles are securely closed.
5. Adjust the 3-bar slide of each leg to a comfortable and snug position.

## Attaching the Harness to the Tree

1. To secure the safety system to the tree, begin by simply sliding the provided 1-7/8" wide tree strap through the loop located at the end of the system's tether. (The tether is the folded strap that extends out from the rear, neck area of the vest). Wrap the tree strap around the tree and secure it with the metal buckle. A designated area for the tether is indicated on the tree strap.
2. To properly weave the tree strap through the buckle, hold the metal buckle in one hand with the bent sides upward. Thread the tree strap between the knurled bar and the webbing sewn to the buckle. Then run strap over the knurled slide bar and back through the buckle. (Figure 3) Pull the webbing hard to cinch it to the tree. There must be at least 8-inches of webbing remaining beyond the buckle.
3. Once attached to the tree, tug at the tether to insure you have secured the buckle correctly. It should not loosen. If the strap loosens, the buckle and webbing are not weaved correctly. Do not use until the strap is securely attached to the tree!



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1. With the buckle's bent sides upward, thread the tree strap end from the bottom between the sewn portion of the tree strap and the knurled slide bar.
2. Bring the tree strap over the gnarled slide bar and...
3. Insert the tree strap between the knurled slide bar and the end of the buckle.



Figure 4

There should be no slack in the tether between the tree connection and the hunter when he/she is in the sitting position.



4. Secure the tree strap to the tree at approximately head height while standing in the tree stand. There should be no slack in the tether between the tree connection and the hunter while he/she is in a sitting position. If slack is present, raise the tree strap until there is no slack. (Figure 4)

### Using the Suspension Relief/ Deer Drag Strap

1. A one-inch strap is provided with your safety system to be used **ONLY** as a suspension relief/deer drag aid. **NEVER** use this as a means of securing yourself or the young hunter to the tree. In the event of a fall, **DO NOT PANIC!** If you must hang for extended periods of time while waiting for help to arrive, the suspension relief strap will allow the user to relieve the load on the lower extremities if suspended in the harness and help maintain circulation in the legs and mitigate suspension trauma (Blood pooling).
2. Take the strap from your pocket (keep this strap with you and easily accessible at all times) and snap it to the deer drag loop at the bottom, rear of the vest. (Figure 5) Adjust the strap to a length that will allow you to step up into the looped end thus relieving pressure on your body caused by hanging. (Figure 6) Keep an emergency signal device such as whistle, small air horn, cell phone or personal locator beacon in an accessible pocket at all times.
3. **Note:** Several optional products/systems are available that offer self-recovery or self extraction from a fall when suspended in a harness. Some systems automatically descend the user while others allow control. One of these product/systems can be considered for use as an additional safety precaution against prolonged suspension and suspension trauma. Be sure to follow the manufacturers' directions on the safe use of these products/systems.
4. To use the suspension relief/deer drag strap as a deer drag, place the snap end of the strap through the loop on the opposite end and create a lasso. Loop this over the antlers or neck of the harvested animal and snap the metal end to the loop located at the rear and bottom of your vest/harness. Young hunters or those with weak or injured backs should never drag heavy animals or weight that may injure bones or muscles.
5. **Warning!** The loop located on the lower, rear portion of the harness (Figure 5) is to be used for suspension relief/deer drag purposes **ONLY**. This should **NEVER** be used to attach or secure the harness to the tree.

### Hand wash and hang dry only!



Figure 5

Clip the deer drag/suspension relief strap to the loop located at the rear, bottom of the vest/harness



Figure 6

Adjust the strap to a length that allows you to step into the looped end, thus relieving pressure to the body.

## Overall Safe Use Instructions and Safe Hunting Practices

### WARNING!!!

**Read, watch, understand and follow all instructions prior to using this safety system/harness. Failure to read, watch, understand and follow this information can cause serious injury or death! Call 1-877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative before using your HSS Safety System (vest/harness) if there is anything you do not understand!**

1. Prior to using the HSS harness, make sure you read and understand all safe-use instructions, warnings and the product expiration date. Watch the enclosed instructional DVD. If there are any questions concerning usage or safe usage of this or any HSS product or anything you do not understand in the written or video safe-use instructions, call 1-877-296-3528 and speak to a product specialist BEFORE using it.
2. When hunting from or using a treestand, falls can occur any time after leaving the ground causing injury or death. ALWAYS wear your HSS harness and use any additional HSS accessory such as a Life Line or the provided tree strap/tether combination to stay connected to the tree from the moment you leave the ground until you return to the ground. If you cannot wear your full body safety system/harness for any reason, you MUST hunt from the ground.
3. Keep the provided neck, hang-tag/booklet, safe use instructions with you at all times while hunting aloft for reference. Refer to the safe use instructions annually or anytime you are not certain about using your HSS harness. If there is anything you are not certain about, call 1-877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative before using your harness. Also, you must give the complete safe use and instructional material to anyone to whom you loan or sell your safety system/harness.
4. Familiarize yourself with the HSS harness and all its adjustments while at ground level. Also, while slightly above ground level and in the presence of a responsible adult, practice using your safety system to experience the feeling of hanging suspended before using in a hunting environment. (Figure 7)  
**Warning!** NEVER exceed the total weight limit (yourself and gear) specified for the particular model harness.
5. The HSS harness/fall arrest system is designed to arrest a single fall only. If you experience a fall while wearing this product, return it to HSS for replacement. To replace your harness in the event of a fall, call 1-256-773-7732. (A nominal fee will apply.)
6. **DO NOT** use this product or hunt from an elevated platform while using drugs of any type without authorization for your personal physician or after the consumption of any amount of alcohol. These items can impair your balance, judgment and ability to safely hunt from an elevated position.
7. **DO NOT** modify, repair, alter, sew, or cut this product in any way. Doing so may cause serious injury or death.
8. **DO NOT** use this product or hunt from an elevated platform unless you are well rested and alert, or if you have in the past or are presently experiencing any back or heart problems, medical condition that could cause a problem while above ground level. You MUST be physically and mentally able to recover to the stand platform or ground in the event of a fall.



**Figure 7**

Have Responsible Assistance when testing harness near ground level.

9. Never hunt from an elevated position during inclement weather such as rain, lightning, high wind or icy conditions. Always end your hunt and return to the ground immediately if inclement weather conditions arise.
10. Anytime you are ascending, descending, or hunting from an elevated platform, you must be secured to the tree from the moment you leave the ground until the moment you return to the ground. To accomplish this with the Lil' Stalker, HSS **STRONGLY** recommends use of the optional HSS Lifeline with Prussic hitch. Similar products offered by other manufacturers are also available for this purpose. The HSS Life Line can be purchased at sporting goods stores, from [www.hssvest.com](http://www.hssvest.com), or by calling 877-296-3528.
11. Always maintain a 3-point contact when climbing up or down a tree using climbing aids. Proper 3-point contact means having either two feet with one hand or one foot with two hands on the steps of your climbing aid at all times when climbing up/down or in and out of the treestand.
12. The HSS harness is only considered a fall restraint device when all chest/waist and leg buckles are closed securely and adjusted comfortably snug in place around the body, and the safety system is attached firmly to the tree by the tether according to HSS instructions.
13. Leg straps & buckles must be in the proper position between your legs (left strap/left leg, right strap/right leg) and the waist buckle must be locked closed and checked for closure, from the time you leave the ground until you return to the ground.
14. Adjust the chest/waist strap, and two leg straps comfortably snug to the body making sure that all buckles are fastened securely and adjusted properly snug according to safety system instructions before leaving the ground.
15. **Warning!** If you have purchased this harness in a sealed package with all instructions, warnings and items listed on page 1 of this instructional booklet, the harness must be removed from service five years from the date of purchase. (Be sure to keep your proof of purchase) If you have purchased or obtained this harness as a previously used harness, it must be removed from service five years from the date of manufacture. This date is printed on the tether label.
16. **Warning!** Inspect belts, buckles and tree straps prior to each use. Do not use this vest/harness if any of these components is not working properly, damaged, shows signs of wear, or after the applicable five year period. (Refer to item #15). Failure to remove from service after 5 years could result in serious injury or death.
17. Do not wrap tether around or across your neck or under your arms.
18. Make certain the tree strap and tether is connected to the tree properly and there is no slack in the tether when in the seated position. Use the following procedure to attach at the correct height: While in a standing position on the stand platform, position the tree strap and tether at or above head level and tighten. When in the sitting position, there should be no slack in the tether.
19. When using a climbing treestand, be sure to follow the treestand manufacturers instructions and warnings with regards to proper usage. Make sure you attach your HSS tether and tree strap securely to the tree while at ground level and advance the tree strap up or down as you ascend or descend staying connected to the tree at all times. Always keep the attachment as high as possible. Test your tree attachment by pulling on the tether with each advancement.
20. If using a ladder stand, make sure you comply with the manufacturers instructions and warnings. Once the ladder stand is erected and you have gained access to the platform, it is critical that you attach your tree strap and tether to the tree before engaging in further activities. In order to regain access to the platform in the event of a fall, it is critical that the tree strap is connected so there is no slack in the tether when in the sitting position.



21. When using a hang-on style treestand, HSS requires that the user of its harness be connected to the tree from the moment he/she leaves the ground to the moment he/she returns. This can be accomplished with the HSS accessory Life Line or similar product made by another company.
21. Prepare and practice a rescue, relief and recovery plan should a fall occur. Plan ahead on how you will recover and return to the stand platform or ground in the event of a fall. If a fall occurs, **DO NOT PANIC!** Remain calm and implement your practiced rescue, relief and recovery plan. Always carry a folding screw-in tree step and emergency whistle, two-way radio, or cell phone in an accessible pocket of your vest for self-rescue use in the event of a fall. Hanging or suspension for extended periods of time can cause discomfort, serious injury, or death. Always keep the suspension relief/deer drag strap in an easily accessible pocket for use in the event of a fall.
22. Always inform someone of your hunting location and when to expect your return. Always carry a cell phone or personal locator beacon in case you need help.
23. Always hunt from the ground when self-recovery/escape ability is absent.
24. Never climb up/down or hunt at heights at which you are not completely comfortable.
25. Never connect your harness to any part of the treestand, climbing aids, or tree limbs.
26. Never use your harness to lean out from the treestand for any reason including trimming branches or shooting.
27. **Warning!** NEVER exceed the total weight limit (yourself and gear) specified for the particular model harness that's worn!
28. **WARNING!** NEVER climb a dead, dying, leaning, icy, wet, or loose barked tree. If in doubt as to the condition of the tree, **DO NOT CLIMB IT!** Never rely on a tree branch for support. Never climb or hunt from a utility pole.
29. **WARNING!** User must be 16-years old or older and be physically and mentally able to use the HSSharness without adult supervision and assistance at all times in adjustments, attachments to the tree, and **ALL** other safety concerns. User must be physically and mentally able to recover after a fall has occurred.
30. **WARNING!** Youths or minors under 16 years of age must be instructed and supervised on Instructions and all safety aspects of use by a responsible adult each time the HSS Safety System is used.
31. Any person under 16 years of age wearing an HSS vest/harness, safety system **MUST** be accompanied by a supervising adult at all times. This is especially important when positioned in a treestand or any platform located above ground level, while ascending to the treestand or descending from it. Let's protect our youth!
31. To receive the industry's safe treestand video, call HE Tools at 801-466-9222 or NBEF at 479-649-9036

**WARNING: Follow ALL safety instructions and warnings when positioned above ground level! Safety First! If there is ANYTHING you are in doubt of and do not thoroughly understand about these instructions or the safe use of this product, call 877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative BEFORE using it!**

## LIMITED WARRANTY

This warranty is to the original retail purchaser and covers all materials and labor for the repair or replacement of the product due to defects in workmanship or materials within (1) one year from the date of purchase. This warranty does not cover use or care other than that described in instructions on hang tags and tree strap. **Purchaser must read, follow and understand all safety and warranty instructions prior to use.** **Warning! If there is anything you do not understand about this product, its usage or instructions, call 1-877-296-3528 BEFORE using!** Hunter Safety System (HSS, Inc.) reserves the right to determine whether the product shall be repaired or replaced with a like or similar product. All shipping costs are the responsibility of the owner. Defective product, along with proof of purchase, should be sent to: **HSS, Inc., 8237 Danville Road, Danville, AL 35619.**

THE FOREGOING IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, WHETHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED (INCLUDING THOSE OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS OF ANY OTHER PRODUCT FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE), AND ANY OF THE OTHER OBLIGATIONS OR LIABILITIES ON THE PART OF THE COMPANY.

## LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

It is expressly understood that Hunter Safety System's liability for its products, whether due to breach of warranty, negligence, strict liability, or otherwise, is limited to the repair of the product, and HSS, Inc. will not be liable for any other injury, loss, or damage to material, arising in connection with the sale, installation, use of, inability to use, or the repair or replacement of Hunter Safety System products. HSS, Inc. accepts NO responsibility for injury or damage incurred when product has been altered or misused (not used according to instructions—for intended purpose).

Hunter Safety System, Inc. reserves the right at any time to make alterations or modifications to its products which, in its opinion, may improve the performance and efficiency of the product. HSS, Inc. shall not be required to make such alterations or modifications to products already in service.

**HUNTER SAFETY SYSTEM (HSS, INC.)**  
**P. O. BOX 31**  
**DANVILLE, AL 35619**

**To validate warranty, complete & detach card below & return to above address, or submit the warranty form online at [www.hssvest.com](http://www.hssvest.com).**

### HUNTER SAFETY SYSTEM WARRANTY CARD

PRODUCT NAME OR MODEL NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

NON-USA ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE & LOCATION OF PURCHASE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAVORITE 3 TV OUTDOOR PROGRAMS: \_\_\_\_\_

FAVORITE 3 OUTDOOR MAGAZINES: \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE/HOW DID YOU FIND OUR PRODUCTS: \_\_\_\_\_

"I HAVE VIEWED AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL WRITTEN AND VIDEO INSTRUCTIONS, AND IN THE EVENT OF A FALL WHILE WEARING THE HSS HARNESS, I AM PHYSICALLY ABLE TO RECOVER SAFELY TO THE TREESTAND, CLIMBING DEVICE, OR GROUND AND WILL MAINTAIN THAT ABILITY ANYTIME THE HSS VEST/HARNESS IS WORN."

(Signature Needed): \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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