

Instruction and Safe Use Manual

Hunter Safety System harness model 7R with suspension relief/deer drag



WARNING! Read, watch, understand and follow all written and DVD 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 can cause serious injury or death! Call HSS at 1-877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative BEFORE using your vest/harness or any portion of this package 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.

Note: This 7R model harness does not include a lineman's climbing strap. It is strongly recommended that one is purchased for use in installing treestands, climbing devices or working above ground level. One can be purchased at sporting goods stores or by calling 877-296-3528.

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WARNING!

Read, watch, understand and follow all written and DVD instructions before using any HSS product! Failure to do so could cause serious injury or death! If there is ANYTHING about these products, their safe usage or the instructions you do not understand or are uncertain about, call 877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative BEFORE using it!

Although Hunter Safety System, Inc. (HSS) is dedicated to manufacturing only the safest hunting equipment possible, this goal cannot succeed without the aid of our customers. Common sense in the use and understanding of this product is absolutely necessary.

Important/caution: Safety and using safe hunting practices are the most important elements of the hunting experience and are your responsibility.

A warranty registration form is included with your HSS Vest/Harness. Please fill out the information requested in its entirety and return it to HSS, Inc. 8237 Danville Rd., Danville, Al. 35619. This warranty form must be signed and dated in order for the warranty to be in force. **Your signature also acknowledges that you have read and understand the instructions and warnings contained within this booklet and that you recognize their importance**

WARNING!!!

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

1. **WARNING!** Anytime the accessory lineman's climbing strap is used to ascend or descend a tree, you **MUST** stay doubly connected with the use of the lineman's climbing strap **AND** the secondary tree strap. **Follow all lineman's climbing strap safe use instructions as detailed in the LCS instructions.**
2. **Warning!** In the event of a fall, **DO NOT PANIC!** Put your practiced self recovery plan into action, ie suspension relief, self recovery, or other means of rescue.
3. **WARNING!** NEVER drag an animal or weight that may cause injury to your back, legs, bones or muscles. If you are presently or have ever experienced problems with these areas, **DO NOT** use the HSS harness and deer drag strap to drag anything!
4. **WARNING!** For additional safety while climbing with the accessory LCS, the tree strap and the harness's tether **MUST** be attached to the tree for double connection. Attaching this secondary connection must take place before leaving the ground.
5. **WARNING!** Slide the tether and tree strap upward as you ascend or downward as you descend with the lineman's climbing strap, staying doubly connected. Failure to do so could cause serious injury or death should a fall occur!
6. **Warning!** Anytime the tether is not attached to the tree, your HSS harness is not considered a fall restraint device!
7. **Warning!** Only while advancing above or below a limb or treestand should either the tree strap or lineman's climbing strap be temporarily removed.
8. **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!
9. **Warning!** Anytime the harness's tether is not attached to the tree as per the HSS lineman's climbing strap instructions, the HSS harness, when used with the HSS lineman's climbing strap, should be considered a climbing aid only and **NOT** a fall restraint device.
10. **Warning!** If your harness model has elastic binocular straps, **DO NOT** ascend or descend a tree while wearing anything attached to these elastic straps or when the straps are adjusted out with slack that may catch or hang onto limbs, steps or other protruding objects. Doing so may cause a fall resulting in serious injury or death.
11. **Warning!** NEVER exceed the total weight limit (yourself and gear) specified for the particular model harness you are using.
12. **Warning!** **DO NOT** use this product or hunt from an elevated platform while using drugs of any type without approval from 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.
13. **Warning!** **DO NOT** modify, repair, alter, or cut this product in any way. Doing so may cause serious injury or death.
14. **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's platform or ground in the event of a fall.
15. **Warning!** 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.
16. **Warning!** The suspension relief/ deer drag loop located on the lower, rear portion of the harness is to be used as a deer drag or suspension relief capabilities **ONLY**. This should **NEVER** be used to attach or secure yourself to the tree.
17. **Warning!** Inspect belts, buckles and tree straps prior to each use. Do not use this harness if any of these components are not working properly are damaged or show signs of wear.
18. **Warning!** If you have purchased this harness in a sealed package with all instructions, warnings and items listed in 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.
19. **Warning!** Never wrap the harness's tether around or across your neck or under your arms.

Examine all components before using your Hunter Safety System vest/harness.

The HSS-7 model harness contains the following items: Instruction and safe use booklet, instructional DVD, a 1-7/8 inch wide tree strap, 1-inch wide suspension relief strap that can double as a deer drag, and a vest/harness.

Although every component has been examined for quality compliance by HSS, all components must be examined by the user before each use to assure there is no damage or wear etc. Call 1-877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative before use if any of the above contents are missing.



WARNING! While the HSS-7R model Treestalker harness **does not** come with a lineman's climbing strap. References throughout these instructions mention it's use. HSS strongly recommends the purchase of our accessory lineman's strap for use during the actions described in this instruction booklet.

ADJUSTING YOUR HUNTER SAFETY SYSTEM

1. Put the HSS harness on and securely fasten the waist buckle together. Listen for a secure, complete snap that indicates it is locked in place. Grab each side of the buckle and pull sharply to make certain it's locked and secure. Examine the buckle to ensure it is properly locked and secured. **WARNING!** This buckle **must** be used whenever the harness is worn.
2. **Warning!** Never rely on the zipper to hold should a fall occur. You **MUST** use all buckles.
3. Beneath the left pocket and between the fabric layers, locate the adjustable slide bar attached to the waist strap. This thin, metal adjustment slide-bar is attached to the webbing that connects to the waist buckle found at the middle of your torso. (Figure 1)
4. Move the adjustable slide bar forward or back to adjust the vest comfortably snug to your body. The vest will adjust to accommodate both light and heavy clothing. Large adjustments are more easily made while not wearing the safety system. To make a large adjustment, place the harness on a flat surface, locate the adjustable slide bar, and move it as needed. Make sure all straps are repositioned in place and not twisted after making any adjustments. This can usually be accomplished by picking the vest up by the waist buckle and shaking the vest or pulling outward on the buckle ends.
5. Release each leg strap buckle, bring them between your legs, and securely snap them in place putting the left strap to the left leg buckle and right strap to the right leg buckle. Listen for a secure and complete snap indicating they are locked in place. Grab both sides of each buckle and pull sharply to make certain they are locked and secure with no clothing caught in the buckle. **WARNING!** Both leg buckles **must** be used whenever the harness is worn.
6. Adjust each leg strap length making the webbing comfortably snug to the leg.

ATTACHING YOUR HARNESS TO THE TREE

1. Wrap the tree strap around the tree and bring the loose end through the loop located at the end of the harness's tether. (The tether is the strap that extends out from the rear of the harness neckline.) Properly weave the tree strap's webbing and buckle as follows: With the bent "sides" up, thread the tree strap end from the back side between the sewn portion of the tree strap and the knurled slide bar. Bring the tree strap over the knurled slide bar and insert the tree strap between the knurled slide bar and the end of the buckle. (Figure 2) Pull tight to the tree and test attachment by pulling sharply on the tether and tree strap connection making sure it's secured tight to the tree. After securing to the tree, there must be at least 8-inches of slack webbing beyond the buckle.
2. Locate the trees strap at a height that allows for no slack in the tether while in the sitting position. (Figure 3) This is often at or just above head height while standing on the treestand.
3. **WARNING!** Always carry the tree strap and suspension relief strap in a pocket when traveling. Never keep them attached to the harness unless in use for their intended purpose. If your model harness does not include a pocket, HSS strongly recommends the purchase of its accessory 3-pack of tactical bags, which can be ordered on line or sporting goods stores.
4. **WARNING!** If the harness model you have does not have pockets and you choose not to purchase a pocket accessory, you **MUST** supply one in your outer clothing for these straps.



Figure 1.
Locate harness adjustment under left pocket & above leg buckle.

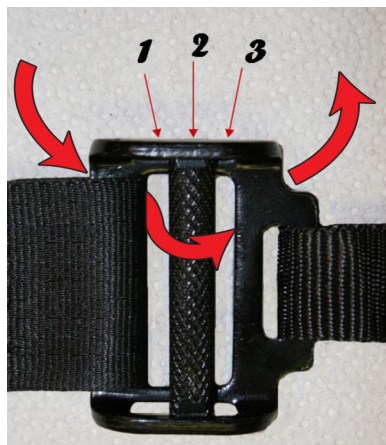


Figure 2

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

USING THE SUSPENSION RELIEF STRAP/ DEER DRAG

1. A one-inch strap is provided with your harness to be used **ONLY** as a suspension relief strap or deer drag aid. This **MUST** be on your person and easily accessible when using the harness. **WARNING! NEVER** use this or the loop located at the rear, bottom of the harness as a means of securing yourself to the tree.
2. Practice at least one self recovery or suspension relief method while near ground level and in the presence of a responsible adult. An example of this use can be seen in figure 3.
3. If you fall and must hang for extended periods of time while waiting for help to arrive, the suspension relief strap can allow the user to relieve the load on the lower extremities when suspended in the harness and help maintain circulation in the leg thereby mitigating suspension trauma (blood pooling).
4. While hanging, take the strap from your pocket (**WARNING!** keep this strap with you and easily accessible at all times) and attach the metal clip to the loop found at the rear bottom portion of the harness. Adjust the strap to a length that will allow you to step up onto it and stand thus relieving pressure on your body caused by hanging. (Figure 4)
5. You should never hunt without the suspension relief strap; however, if you drop or lose it, be sure to move your legs often while hanging to maintain a good blood flow. In addition to the suspension relief strap, always carry a screw-in step in an easily accessible pocket that can be screwed into the tree and stepped onto to relieve suspension trauma.
6. Always keep an emergency signal device such as a whistle, small air horn and a cell phone or personal locator beacon in an accessible pocket at all times so that you can contact someone for help.
7. **Warning!** In the event of a fall, **DO NOT PANIC!** Put your practiced self recovery plan into action, ie suspension relief, self recovery, or other means of rescue.
8. **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.
9. To use the suspension relief strap as a deer drag, place the adjustable loop over the antlers or neck of the harvested animal and connect the clip to the loop located at the rear, bottom of the harness. **WARNING!** NEVER drag an animal or weight that may cause injury to your back, legs, bones or muscles. If you are presently or have ever experienced problems with these **DO NOT** use the HSS harness and deer drag strap to drag anything!



Figure 3

There should be no slack in the tether while in the sitting position



Figure 4

Adjust the strap to a length that will allow you to step into it and stand, thus relieving pressure on your body caused by hanging.

Have responsible assistance with you when testing harness near ground level.

Use with various treestand styles

1. When using a climbing treestand, be sure to follow the treestand manufacturer's 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 with the stand 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 to make certain it is tight. To make this process even easier to do, HSS recommends the use of its Rope Style Tree Strap, which is sold as an accessory.
2. If using a ladder stand, make sure you comply with the manufacturer's 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. (Figure 3). HSS strongly recommends the use of its Life Line, which is sold as an accessory, when ladder stands are used.
3. When using a hang-on style treestand, be sure to follow the treestand manufacturer's instructions and warnings with regard to proper usage. When ascending to an existing hang-on style treestand, you must stay attached to the tree from the moment you leave the ground until you return. This can be accomplished with the optional HSS Life Line or the use of the optional HSS Lineman's Climbing Strap and tree strap with tether connection staying doubly attached. Upon reaching the stand, connect the tree strap and tether above the stand, disconnect the lineman's climbing strap, and reconnect it above the stand. Remain doubly attached when stepping down into the center of the stand. Once secured in the stand, you can remove the lineman's climbing strap. HSS Strongly recommends the use of its Life Line for additional safety anytime a hang-on style treestand is used.
4. **Warning!** Anytime the vest/harness's tether is not attached to the tree as per the HSS lineman's climbing strap instructions, the HSS harness, when used with the HSS lineman's climbing strap, should be considered a climbing aid only and NOT a fall restraint device.

Overall Safe Use Instructions and Safe Hunting Practices

WARNING! Read, watch and follow all instructions prior to using this 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/harness if there is anything you do not understand!

1. Prior to using the HSS Safety System, make sure you read, understand and follow all safe-use instructions, warnings and the product expiration date. Watch the enclosed instructional DVD. If there are any questions concerning the proper 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 an HSS representative BEFORE using it.
2. When hunting from an elevated position, 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 Lineman's Climbing Strap 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 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 anything regarding your HSS harness/ safety system. If there is anything you are not certain about, call 1-877-296-3528 and speak to an HSS representative before using your safety system.

4. You **MUST** give the complete safe use and instructional material to anyone to whom you loan or sell your harness/safety system.
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. Call 877-296-3528. A nominal fee will apply.
6. Familiarize yourself with the HSS harness/safety system 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 9)
Warning! NEVER exceed the total weight limit (yourself and gear) specified for the particular model harness you are using.
7. **WARNING! DO NOT** use this product or hunt from an elevated platform while using drugs of any type without approval from 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.
8. **WARNING! DO NOT** modify, repair, alter, sew, or cut this product in any way. Doing so may cause serious injury or death.
9. **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's platform or ground in the event of a fall.
10. **WARNING!** 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.
11. Anytime you are ascending, descending, or hunting from an elevated platform, make sure that you are secured to the tree from the moment you leave the ground until the moment you return to the ground. This should be accomplished with the use of one or more of the following: The HSS Lineman's Climbing Strap and tree strap combination (to stay doubly attached to the tree), or the optional HSS Lifeline with Prussic knot. If lost or damaged, the HSS Life Line or Lineman's Climbing Strap can be purchased at sporting goods stores or www.huntersafetyssystem.com.
12. Always use the HSS Lineman's Climbing Strap and tether/tree strap according to the manufacturer's instructions when hanging a fixed position, hang-on style treestand. If lost or damaged, they can either be purchased separately as an accessory at numerous sporting goods stores, by calling 1-877-296-3528 or on the web at www.hssvest.com.
13. The Lineman's Climbing Strap must always be used in conjunction with the tree strap and tether provided with the HSS vest/harness . To maximize safety, always attach the safety system's tether and tree strap to the tree along with the lineman's climbing strap, staying doubly attached while climbing, hanging, or securing a treestand, ladder stick or other accessories to or from a tree.
14. 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.
15. When moving to gain access into the treestand with the Lineman's Climbing Strap and tether/tree strap still attached to the tree, remove and reattach the HSS tree strap above the treestand. Once securely attached to the tree by the tether, remove the lineman's climbing strap and climb above the base of the treestand. Reattach the lineman's strap to the tree and stay doubly attached while stepping down into the center of the treestand. Remain doubly attached until you are secure in the stand. Then remove the lineman's climbing strap.

16. The HSS safety system is only considered a fall restraint device when all waist and leg buckles are closed securely and adjusted comfortably snug in place around the body, and the harness/safety system is attached firmly to the tree by the tether according to HSS instructions.
17. Leg straps & buckles must be correctly adjusted and 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 by pulling sharply on it) from the time you leave the ground until you return to the ground.
18. **WARNING!** The suspension relief/ deer drag loop located on the lower, rear portion of the harness is to be used as a deer drag or suspension relief device ONLY. This should NEVER be used to attach or secure yourself to the tree.
19. **Warning!** Inspect belts, buckles and tree straps prior to each use. Do not use this harness if any of these components are not working properly are damaged or show signs of wear.
20. **Warning!** If you have purchased this harness in a sealed package with all instructions, warnings and items listed on page 3 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.
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.
25. Never use your harness to lean out from the treestand for any reason including trimming branches or shooting.
26. 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.
27. User must be 16-years old or older and be physically and mentally able to use the HSS harness without adult supervision and assistance in adjustments, attachments to the tree, and all other concerns relating to the Hunter Safety System. User must be physically and mentally able to recover after a fall has occurred.
28. Youths or minors under 16 years of age must be instructed prior to each use and supervised during use on all safety aspects of use by a responsible adult.
29. 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 or anytime it is being worn.
Let's protect our youth!
30. **Warning!** Never wrap the harness's tether around or across your neck or under your arms.
31. To receive the industry's safe treestand video, call HE Tools at 801-466-9222 or NBEF at 479-649-9036.