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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fall Arrest System Mandatory on WMAs

Jackson – The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks passed a new regulation making it mandatory to wear a Fall Arrest System (Full Body Harness) on Wildlife Management Areas. PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER W11 3174 states:

The Fall Arrest System must be worn while climbing a tree, installing a tree stand that uses climbing aids, or while hunting from a tree stand on WMAs. The Fall Arrest System must be one that is manufactured to Treestand Manufacturer's Association standards.

Mississippi is the first state to make using a Fall Arrest System on a WMA mandatory. "This is designed to keep hunters safe in the woods," MDWFP's WMA Coordinator Randy Spencer said: "While it is mandatory on WMA's, we hope this will encourage people to use a Fall Arrest System any time they are hunting or hanging a tree stand."

During the Commission meeting held on July 22, 2009; TMA Executive Director John Louk commended the Commission, Dr. Sam Polles and the House and Senate Wildlife and Fisheries Committees for their leadership in approving the new regulation and added: "Being Mississippians we should be proud of the fact that our state is the first to approve mandatory use of Fall Arrest System/Full Body Harness, we hope that other states will consider doing the same. Wearing a harness is the #1 thing we can do to prevent treestand accidents."

For more information about Mississippi's WMAs, visit: www.mdwfp.com

For information regarding Fall Arrest Systems (Full Body Harness) that meet Treestand Manufacturer's Association standards visit: www.tmastands.com