

OVERVIEW

TREESTAND ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS GRANT

Background Information:

The Treestand Manufacturer's Association (TMA) is a not-for-profit 501(c) (6) corporation with its charter being: ***TO PROMOTE TREESTAND SAFETY THROUGH EDUCATION AND QUALITY IN MANUFACTURING.*** Founded in 1995, TMA currently has over fifty (50) members consisting of manufacturers, retailers and industry associates that support and promote treestand safety. TMA's role is to foster relationships with organizations who promote hunting, hunting ethics, hunting safety, wildlife conservation and public awareness of the hunting experience. TMA also establishes industry standards and requires its members to actively seek certification of conformance. Testing is conducted by designated independent testing firms and products that meet TMA standards are published on our web site: www.tmastands.com, to assist the consumer and retailer in their purchase. The association also publishes various materials that promote treestand safety.

In recent years, state and federal agencies have seen an increase in the number of incidents related to falls when hunting from elevated platforms and treestands. Data from research and various surveys related to treestand accidents have not been based on facts that can be supported with proper documentation. The need exists for more complete and accurate facts related to treestand accidents. The importance of thorough treestand accident investigations is necessary to assure that complete and accurate facts have been established to serve as the basis for developing treestand safety principals to be taught in hunter education for the purpose of reducing hunting incidents related to treestand accidents.

To show TMA's support and encourage each state to take a leading role in efforts to promote treestand safety and also increase their knowledge related to treestand accident investigations, the association is excited to announce the **TREESTAND ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS GRANT**. The purpose of the grant is to establish a source for financial assistance and also training for conservation officers and/or staff that are responsible for investigation of treestand accidents.

State Agencies/Applicants submitting an application (**APPLICATION-TREESTAND ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS GRANT**) will be given the opportunity to select the following training course:

The *Treestand Accident Investigations & Reconstruction Course* curriculum has been developed and is taught by one of the leading experts in the field of hunting accident reconstruction and investigations: Lorne "L.J" Smith, Jr and also John Louk, TMA Executive Director. Conservation Officers who complete the course will receive a Certificate of Completion with 8 Continuing Education Units and patch.

The 8-Hour training course consists of the following:

- 4 hours of classroom instruction
- 4 hours of hands-on field instruction and proficiencies.

The course objectives are listed below:

OBJECTIVE 1.

TO UNDERSTAND WHY PROPER TREESTAND ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE INVESTIGATOR, PARTICIPANTS, HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND THE FUTURE OF HUNTING.

OBJECTIVE 2.

TO UNDERSTAND THE EQUIPMENT, ACTIVITIES AND SEQUENCE OF ACTIONS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT PROPER TREESTAND ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS.

OBJECTIVE 3.

TO UNDERSTAND TREESTAND ACCIDENT INCIDENT CAUSE FACTORS AND HOW TO DETERMINE THEM IN EACH ACCIDENT.

OBJECTIVE 4.

TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO ACCURATELY RECORD TREESTAND ACCIDENT LOCATION, SCENE AND FACTS.

Eligible Applicants:

State Hunter Education Programs and state Law Enforcement Agencies seeking to train conservation officers and/or staff that are responsible for investigation of treestand accidents.

Grant Awards:

Grant Awards for any State Agency/Applicant will be determined by the TMA Board of Directors. Grant Award Funds will be limited to \$1,500 (One-thousand five-hundred dollars) for each *Grant Application* submitted during any one calendar year (January 1 – December 31).

Eligible Costs:

Grant Award Funds will be provided for such costs as: the purchase of: Training Equipment, Personnel (In-Kind), Supplies, Travel, Food or other materials necessary to be used during the *Treestand Accident Investigations & Reconstruction Course*. Grant Award Funds can also be used to purchase equipment to be used by Conservation Officers and/or staff who complete the course responsible for investigation of treestand accidents.

Grant Contingencies:

- State Agency/Applicant is willing to schedule a *Treestand Accident Investigations & Reconstruction Course* for a minimum of twenty (20) and no more than thirty (30) conservation officers and/or staff at any one course. All courses will be scheduled through TMA.
- Each State Agency/Applicant as well as those completing the course, to the best of their ability, are willing to incorporate the principles of the *Treestand Accident Investigations & Reconstruction Course* into the hunting incident investigations procedures.
- State Agency/Applicant agrees to establish and/or implement an appropriate Treestand Accident Report for hunting accidents that are reported and/or become public knowledge.
- State Agency/Applicant agrees to maintain hunting accident statistics involving treestands and provide an annual report to TMA. The annual report should include the following data: 1) Total number of treestand accidents, 2) Date and time of accident, 3) Age of accident victim, 4) Type of treestand used (Homemade, ladder, climber, fixed or free standing), 5) Public or private land, 6) Bow or gun hunting, 7) Weather conditions & tempature.

Training Report:

Successful Grant Recipients agree to submit a **TRAINING REPORT- TREESTAND ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS GRANT** to the TMA Office within twelve (12) months from the date Grant Award is approved. The report should include documentation of the *Treestand Accident Investigations & Reconstruction Course* and status of all Grant Contingencies.

General Instructions:

The TMA Board of Directors will evaluate the proposals based on the criteria specified in the **APPLICATION- TREESTAND ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS GRANT**. All Grant Award Funding will be determined by the TMA Board depending on availability of funds and also order of receipt of completed application from State Agency/Applicant. All State Agencies/Applicants will be notified of the status of the Grant Awards within thirty (30) to forty-five (45) days from receipt of their completed application.