

IHEA-USA Adopted Standards - June 2014

I. Reasons for Hunter Education and Justification for Hunting

A. Justification for Hunter Education

1. Why hunter education is important

B. Hunter's Role in Wildlife Conservation

1. Role of hunting in conservation
2. North American Model of Wildlife Conservation
3. Conservation funding - wildlife management & hunter education

C. Key Wildlife Ecology & Management Principles

1. Basic factors of wildlife conservation
2. Biological basis for hunting

II. Safe Firearm Handling

A. Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics)

1. Major causes of incidents
2. Basic rules of firearm safety
3. Parts of a firearm including safety mechanisms
4. Differences between rifles, shotguns and handguns
5. Common firearm actions
6. Parts of ammunition
7. Proper ammunition
8. Performance characteristics of ammunition

B. Safe Firearm Handling

1. Passing firearms safely
2. Failure to fire
3. Loading and unloading firearms
4. Crossing obstacles
5. Shooting skill
6. Eye and ear protection
7. Transporting firearms
8. Cleaning firearms
9. Storing firearms

III. Safe Firearm Field Practices

A. Safe Firearm Field Practices

1. Handling firearms in hunting situations

2. Proper field carries
3. Safe zones of fire
4. Barrel obstructions

B. Hunter Field Safety

1. Elevated Stands/Climbing Systems
2. Full Body Harness/Fall Arrest Systems

C. Hunter Best Practices

1. Avoid alcohol and drug consumption
2. Outdoor preparedness
3. Preparing a "Hunt Plan"
4. Physical Conditioning

IV. Hunting Laws, Regulations and Wildlife Identification

A. Hunting Regulations

1. Reasons for hunting laws/regulations and who regulates/legislates
2. Resources for locating current hunting regulations

B. Wildlife Identification

1. Wildlife identification skills for hunters

V. Personal Responsibility and Next Steps

A. Personal Responsibility and Behavior

1. Responsible & respectful behaviors that promote positive image of hunters/hunting
2. Fair chase principles that show respect for game and others

B. Responsibility to Wildlife

1. Effective shot placement/angles to ensure a quick, clean kill
2. Game Recovery – Tracking techniques and reading sign
3. Proper and legal care of game to prevent violations/meat spoilage
4. Proper selection of sporting arms to satisfy legal requirements and ensure accuracy