

## Hello Barton!

It's my favorite season of the year. Hunting season! This season, like any season, carries its own risks, mainly for those that enjoy the outdoors. However, with minimal caution, the risk is negligible. Here are some tips for hunters and nonhunters to enjoy the outdoors without risk. Enjoy the season!

When it comes to hunter safety, learn it, preach it, and - most of all - practice it yourself, because it's easy to get overconfident and become careless. Always remain conscious of safety when you head to the woods.

### **Gun safety:**

1. Become familiar with your firearm. Know how to carry it, load it, unload it, and know what to expect when you pull the trigger.
2. Always assume every gun is loaded and always point the muzzle in a safe direction. Never point your gun at or toward another person.
3. Never put your finger on the trigger unless you intend to shoot.
4. Your firearm has a safety. Keep it in the 'On' position until you intend to shoot.
5. Be sure of your target and what is behind it before pulling the trigger.

There are so many different ways for a hunter to get injured or worse during the deer season, but more injuries and deaths are caused by falls from tree stands during the deer season than any other type of accident.

### **Tree stand safety:**

1. Always carry a cell phone and keep it on your person. Don't put it in a pack that you may take off and hang in the tree because if you fall you want your phone readily available to call for help.
2. Always install and maintain tree stands with at least one other person.
3. Check all your steps and straps and replace anything that is worn or weathered.
4. Always wear a full body harness when in a tree stand. Wear it properly.
5. Always use a rope to pull up your gun or bow.
6. Be aware of your surroundings and never shoot towards another hunter.

### **Wear Blaze Orange!**

The visible portion of a cap and outer clothing above the waist, excluding sleeves and gloves, must be blaze orange when hunting or trapping during any open season where deer may be taken by firearms (including special hunts, early

antlerless, youth seasons and muzzleloader). Blaze orange includes a camouflage pattern of at least 50 percent blaze orange within each square foot.

### Some safety tips for nonhunters:

Wear bright clothing. Choose colors that stand out, like red, orange or green, and avoid white, blacks, browns, earth-toned greens and animal-colored clothing. Blaze orange vests and hats are advisable.

Don't forget to protect pets. Get an [orange vest for an accompanying dog](#).

Make reasonable noise so you will be easy to identify as a person. Whistle, sing or carry on a conversation when walking to alert hunters that someone is in the area. Sound carries well across woods and forests, and hunters should be carefully listening for any sounds of animal movement and will hear you.

It's better to not head into areas known as deer hunting spots until season is over, but if it cannot be avoided, be courteous when near areas you are sure there are hunters. Don't make *unnecessary* noise to disturb wildlife. Avoid confrontations.

Make presence known. If a nonhunter hears shooting, the person should raise their voice and let hunters know they're in vicinity.

Know the dates of hunting seasons. Learn about where and when hunting is taking place.

If hunting makes a nonhunter uneasy, suggest they choose to hike in a location where hunting is not allowed.



The last (but not least) officer I have to introduce to you is Mike. Mike has been with Barton for over two years now. He works the early morning shift for us. He has worked security for quite a while before he came to Barton. He is married and has one grown daughter that works in law enforcement. He is pretty easy to talk to, so feel free to say hi if you get moving in the early morning hours.

Be Safe!  
Lucas Stoelting  
Campus Safety  
Lead Officer

