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Man falls off tree stand; 1st hunting-related fatality in county

BY JOE ARNOLD • THE EAGLE-GAZETTE STAFF • DECEMBER 2, 2008

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STOUTSVILLE - A 60-year-old hunter died Monday morning after apparently falling from a deer hunting tree stand near the Fairfield County-Pickaway County line.

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Dennis Dale Farmer, of Lowber, Pa., was pronounced dead at the scene by firefighters from the Clearcreek Fire Department shortly after the call was received shortly before noon by the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office. The death was the first hunting-related death Fairfield County Sheriff Dave Phalen said he was aware of in the county. Gun hunting season began Monday in Ohio. The accident occurred at 10370 Wyandotte Road, Stoutsville. Farmer, who fell an estimated 18 to 20 feet, was hunting on family-owned land, Phalen said.

"We don't know if it was an accidental fall or one as a result of a medical condition," he said. "We've scheduled an autopsy to find that out."

Detectives from the Sheriff's Office, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Clearcreek Fire Department arrived after the initial call was received.

According the ODNR's Web site, one in every three hunters will experience a fall from a tree stand in his or her hunting career.

"Tree stand accidents are the leading cause of hunter injuries in Ohio and most of the U.S.," said Ron Rogers, the district law enforcement supervisor.

SAFETY TIP

The Ohio De hunters who

- Always tie plan to return
 - Use a tree Manufacture
 - Never use
 - Use a fall
 - Always use equipment in
- Source: [www](#)

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"A lot of them just are not utilizing good, proven tree stand safety techniques."

EGS

Rogers, who taught tree stand safety for eight years, said he believes Monday's death was the first this year in Central Ohio.

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"Most tree stand accidents occur either climbing up and getting into it or getting out or climbing back down tree stands. Others are from not setting them up correctly.

"Our basic hunter's education course teaches how to do that properly and safely."

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