

Exo-Tech Safety Harness: Precautions for Proper Use

Fall Hazard

Always make sure prusik knot and carabiner are completely through tree rope end loop. Always double check the carabiner security and assure the carabiner gate is closed.

Always attach carabiner to red rope loop on prusik knot.

Always pull on red rope loop & carabiner to tighten prusik knot onto rope after repositioning.

Failure to follow these instructions can lead to serious injury or death.

Reduce Your Risk

To reduce your risk of injury or death from falls you must read and follow all safety warnings and instructional materials included within the Exo-Tech harness instruction and safety manual. If you are unsure of anything in these instructional materials or have any questions regarding Gorilla Treestand products, stop and contact the Gorilla Customer Service Department at 877-685-7817 for assistance.

- This product is designed to fit a person with a weight range from 140 lbs. to 300 lbs. Do not use this harness if your weight does not fall within this weight range.
- Keep harness from coming in contact with sharp objects, DEET and any petroleum products.
- Never use a treestand while taking drugs (even prescription drugs) or alcohol.
- Never use a treestand during inclement weather such as rain lightning, windstorms or icy conditions and end your hunt and return to the ground if inclement conditions arise.
- Practice installing/removing, adjusting, and using your harness at ground level prior to using it at elevated positions. Become familiar with the harness's features and design qualities. Also practice using the harness at ground level in low light conditions as these conditions may exist when installing/removing, adjusting, and using the harness in hunting conditions.
- Do not attempt to install or use without adult supervision if you are under the age of 18.
- Never use a treestand when feeling ill, nauseous or dizzy, or if you have a prior medical condition that could cause a problem i.e., heart condition, joints that lock-up, spinal fusions, etc. or if you are not well rested.
- Always inform someone of the hunting location, where the treestand will be located and the expected duration of the hunt.
- Always have a second adult present or at least accessible by cell phone or other means when using this product. The ability to get help quickly may save your life in the event of a fall.
- A signal device such as mobile phone, radio, whistle, signal flare or personal locator device (PLD) must be on your person and readily available at all times.

- Three Point Climbing Method – Always maintain 3 points of contact when climbing up/down a tree when using climbing aids. Proper 3 – point contact means having either two feet with one hand or one foot with two hands on the step portion of the climbing aids or ladder treestand at all times when climbing up/down a tree or in and out of the treestand.
- Never modify your harness or stand in any way by making repairs, replacing parts, or altering adding or attaching anything to it except if explicitly authorized in writing by the manufacturer.
- Never jump or bounce on a treestand to seat it to the tree.
- Instructions (written and video) should be kept in a safe place and reviewed at least annually. It is the responsibility of the harness owner to furnish the complete instructions to any person that borrows or purchases the harness.
- Pull up a bow, backpack, firearm or other equipment only after being secure in the treestand and a firearm must be pulled up with it unloaded, chamber open and muzzle down.

Proper Inspection

- Before each use, carefully inspect your harness, tether, buckles, lineman's climbing rope, tree rope, carabiners, treestand, and all safety devices for damage, rot, undue wear, deformity, corrosion, cracks, freezing, excessive heat, etc., and cut or frayed webbing/rope, and other damage.
- Do not use product if wear, damage, deterioration, or vandalism is detected or suspected.

Tree Selection

Select a healthy straight tree that is larger than 8-inches in diameter and smaller than 22-inches in diameter.

- Improper tree selection can lead to falls.
- Never use this product on a dead, leaning, diseased, or loose barked tree or on a utility pole or any other man made structure.
- Never rely on a tree branch for support.
- Failure to follow instructions can lead to serious injury or death.
- Always inspect tree from all sides before installing product.
- Do not climb up/down or hunt from trees larger than 22-inches or smaller than 8-inches in diameter at hunting height.
- Always remove all lower branches or obstructions. Tether can elongate up to 37 inches in case of extreme fall.

- Do not climb up/down or hunt from trees that contain nails, screws, or other sharp objects that may cut the webbing or ropes.
- Never climb up/down or hunt from leaning or irregular shaped trees that do not allow for a level stand platform.
- Do not climbing up/down or hunt from a tree with excessive vines or limbs.
- Never attach lineman's strap or tree strap to limbs. Always attach to main tree trunk.
- Do not climb up/down or hunt from trees with icy, wet, slippery, loose, or scaly bark.
- Never climb up/down or hunt at heights at which you are not completely comfortable. Depending upon tree and hunting conditions, choose the minimum height that allows for safe, effective hunting.
- Minimum treestand distance from the treestand platform to the ground must be 10'



MINIMUM 10' DISTANCE BETWEEN
TREESTAND PLATFORM AND GROUND

Ropes and Using Prusik Knots (Lineman's Climbing Rope and Tree Rope)

- **Fall Hazard.**

- Do not unthread Prusik Knots.
- Always double check carabiner security and assure the carabiner gate is closed before leaving the ground.
- Always pull on prusik knot red loop & carabiner to tighten prusik knot onto rope after sliding prusik knot on rope.
- Failure to follow these instructions can lead to serious injury or death.

Both the Lineman's Climbing Rope and Tree Rope are identical ropes so either one can be used for climbing or anchoring to tree. The ends of these ropes are looped and sewn to make loops permanent.

Prusik knots are attached to each of the ropes. These are mechanical locking knots that use 6 bands encircling the primary rope and self tighten onto primary rope (FIGURE A). If there are not 6 bands, add an additional band by wrapping red rope loop around main rope and back through vertical red loop (FIGURE B). To move prusik knot on the rope, grab onto prusik knot and slide it along the rope (without untying) (FIGURE C). Once positioned, always pull on red loop & carabiner to tighten prusik knot onto rope (FIGURE D).

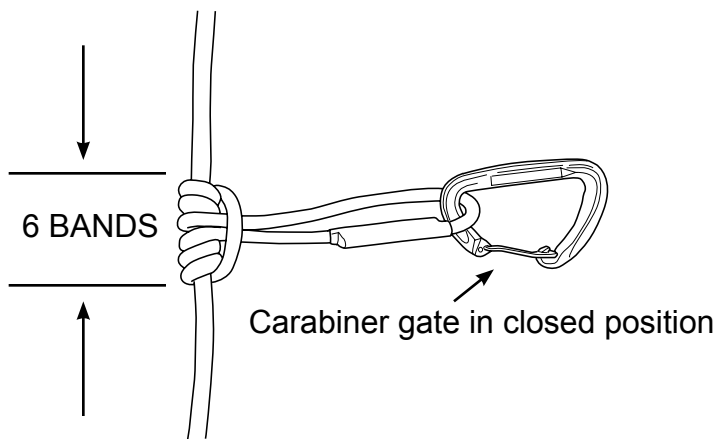


FIGURE A

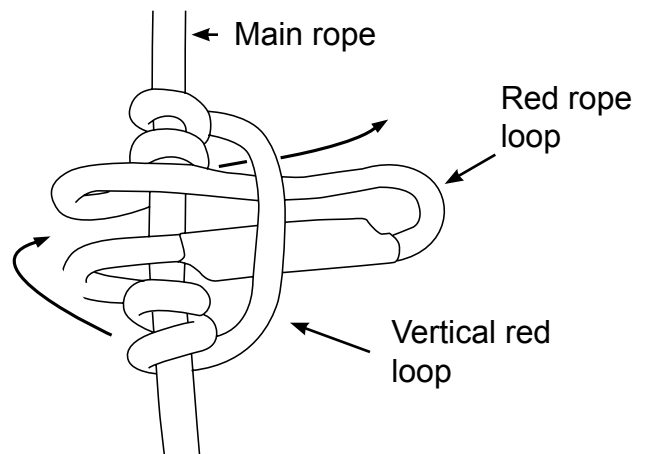


FIGURE B

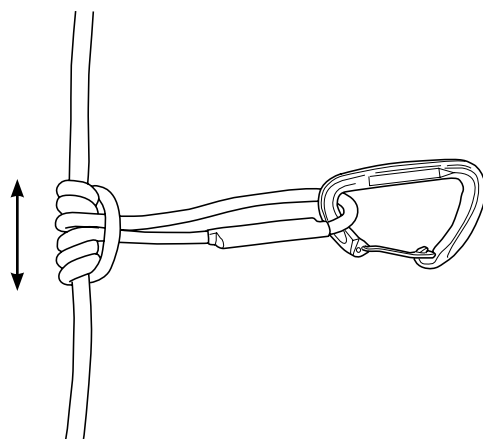


FIGURE C

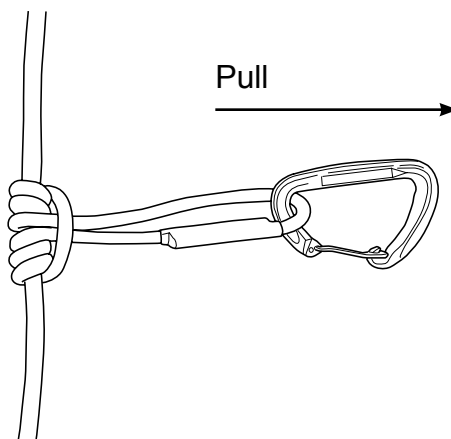


FIGURE D

Limiting Slippage Between Ropes

Determine maximum working distance between you and the tree. This distance should be kept to a minimum, while still allowing adequate freedom of movement. Once determined, tie a simple overhand knot in the red and black rope just past the prusik knot (FIGURE E). This will limit any slippage between the ropes.

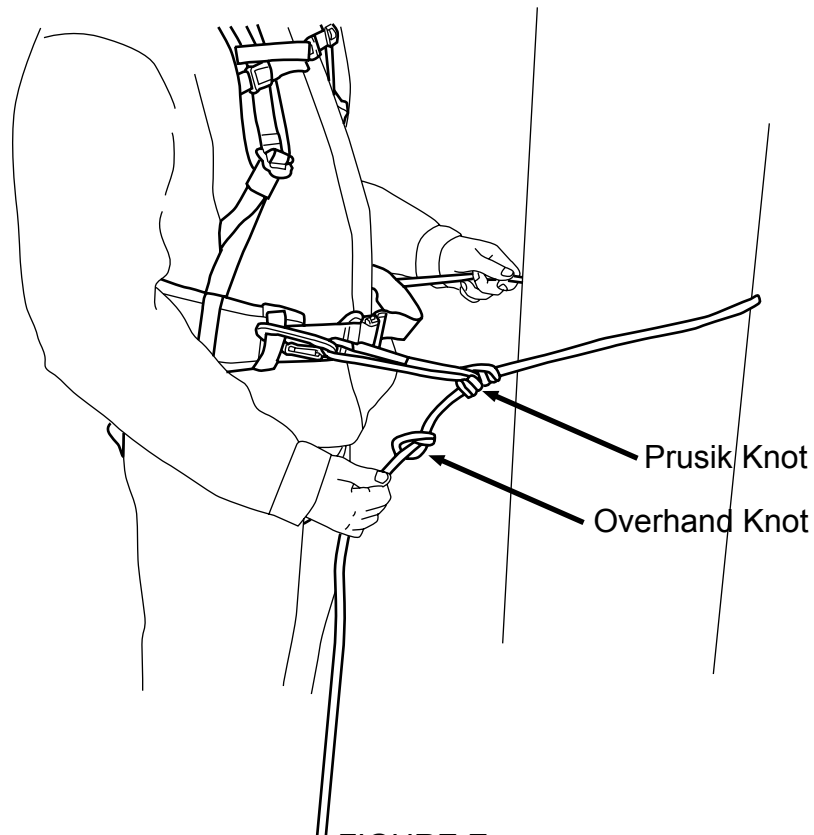


FIGURE E

Position Tree Rope on Tree

With the tether loop attached to the tree rope, position tree rope on tree above head height when standing to limit free fall to the shortest possible distance (FIGURE F). Retighten tree rope on tree and readjust prusik knot and carabiner so it is approximately 1 inch below rope end loop. Pull down on red rope loop and carabiner to tighten prusik knot onto rope. Tie an overhand knot in the red and black rope just below the prusik knot to limit any slippage between the ropes (FIGURE G). The length of the tether must be minimized at all times. Never allow tether to get under or around your neck. Check tether length while seated in treestand to ensure tree rope is positioned high enough to minimize tether length (FIGURE H). If not, readjust the position of the tree rope. Turn opposite way from the tether so the tether stays at your back (FIGURE H).

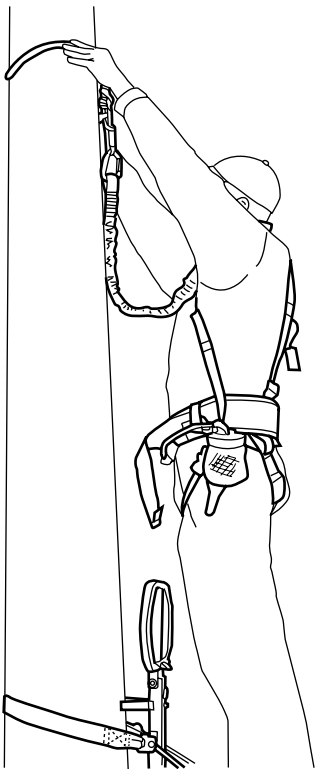


FIGURE F

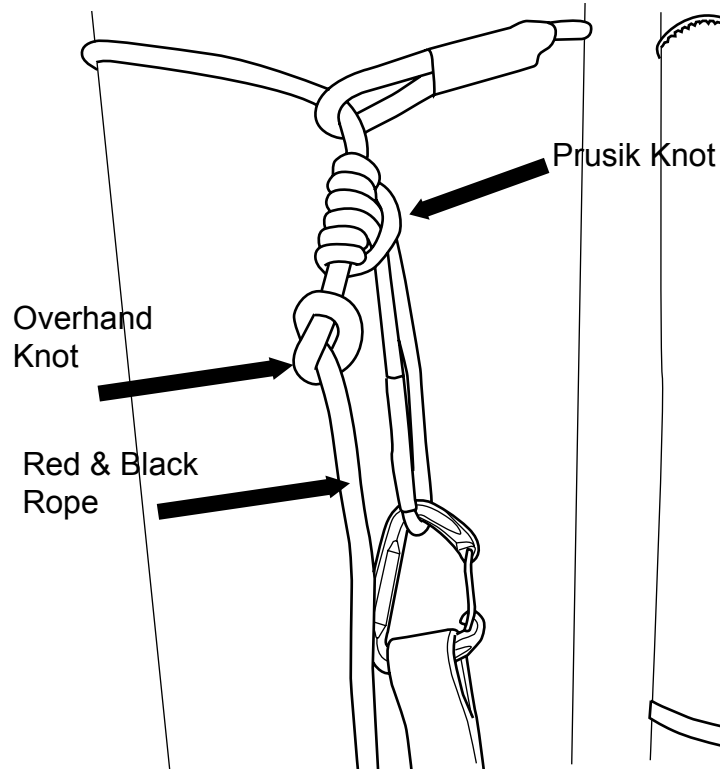


FIGURE G



FIGURE H

Personal Plan for Self-Recovery/Escape

- When hunting from a treestand falls can occur anytime after leaving the ground causing injury or death.
- If your hunting location is unknown by anyone and communication efforts are unsuccessful, you must have a personal plan for recovery/escape because suspension in a harness can be fatal. It is important to exercise the legs by pushing against the tree or doing other forms of continuous leg exercises to avoid blood pooling while being suspended. Hunters with varying degrees of physical fitness may require different plans to recover/escape the effects of prolonged suspension. Have a personal plan and practice it in the presence of a responsible adult before leaving the ground. No one escape/rescue plan will work for every hunter on every tree in every circumstance. Only you can determine the best recovery/escape plan for your hunting situation and you must have a recovery/escape plan for your situation before leaving the ground.
- A suspension relief device must be on your person (attached around red side anchor strap on waist belt before leaving ground) and readily accessible while using a harness. This device will allow the user to relieve the load on the lower extremities if suspended in a harness and help maintain circulation in the legs and prevent suspension trauma (blood pooling). Be sure to follow the directions on the safe use of any suspension relief device.
- Hunt from the ground when self recovery/escape ability is absent.
- Failure to follow these instructions can result in serious injury or death.

If you Experience a Fall

Do not panic. You should be able to climb back onto treestand or climbing aids. Quickly signal for help with your cell phone, two-way radio, or whistle. Have someone get professional emergency help. Always seek professional medical attention immediately after a fall because internal injuries are possible and may not always be apparent at the time of a fall. If you are unable to climb back onto the treestand or climbing aids or contact help, there is time to make a correct decision on what action to take if a fall occurs while wearing a full body harness. It is important to remember, "DO NOT PANIC". Remove your Lineman's Climbing Rope (Suspension Relief Device) from storage pouch and adjust rope loop size by adjusting the rope length through the prusik knot following "Using Suspension Relief Device". Step into the rope loop to relieve the load on the lower extremities. It is important to exercise the legs by pushing against the tree or doing other forms of continuous leg exercises to avoid blood pooling while being suspended. Remain calm and implement your practiced rescue, relief and recovery plan. Always seek professional medical attention immediately after a fall.

Using Suspension Relief Device

Remove lineman's climbing rope from storage pouch (FIGURE I). Making sure lineman's climbing rope is attached to red side anchor strap, position prusik knot toward end of rope. Attach prusik knot to same red side anchor strap with carabiner forming a loop with the rope (FIGURE J). Adjust loop size by sliding prusik knot along black and red rope so rope loop extends approximately a foot above your feet (FIGURE K). Step into loop with one or both feet and stand on strap to relieve suspension strain on your legs (FIGURE L). If the rope does not relieve the load on the lower extremities, re-adjust linemans climbing rope to a shorter position and re-step into the loop and stand up on the rope.

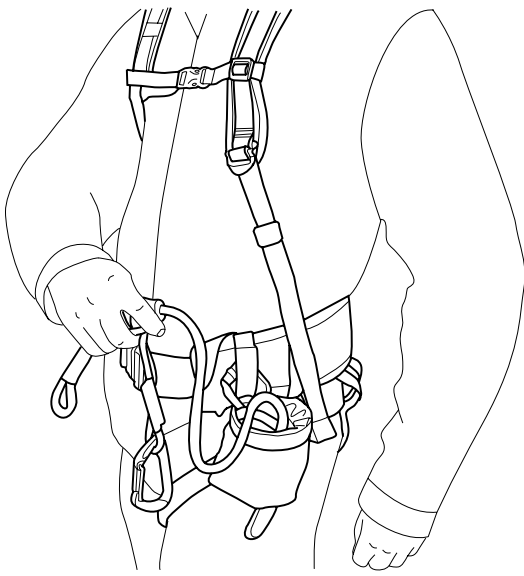


FIGURE I

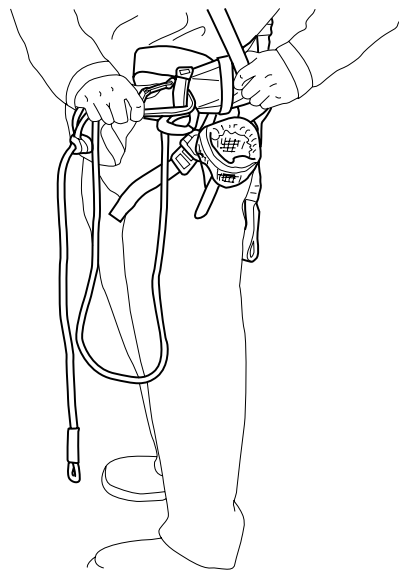


FIGURE J

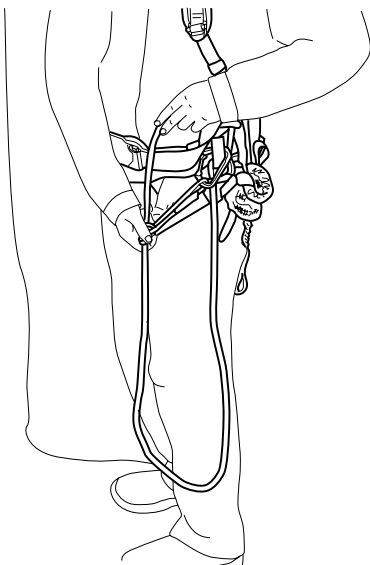


FIGURE K

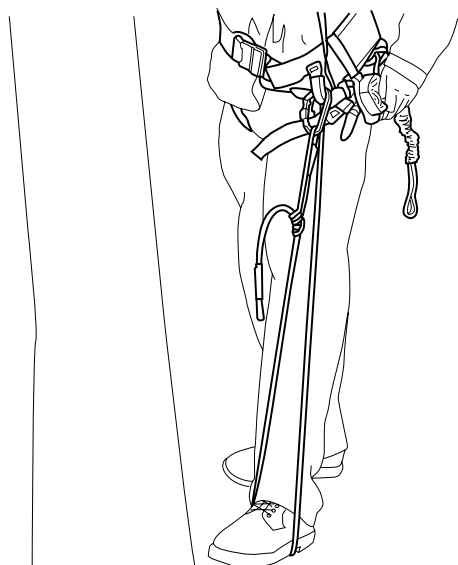


FIGURE L

Expired Harness

Failure to discard and remove this Fall Arrest System (FAS) device from service upon earlier to occur of five (5) years from manufacture date or after arresting a fall could result in a serious injury or death.

Storage

The EXO-Tech harness, lineman's climbing rope, and tree rope should be stored indoors in a clean, dry environment free from direct sunlight, dust, excessive heat, harmful chemicals and away from ozone generating air purifiers. Exposure to sunlight, excessive heat, and the elements may weaken the material over time.

Keep harness and ropes away from acids, corrosive substances or solvents. Even fumes from batteries can reduce the strength of the harness. If your harness comes into contact with any of these substances, retire harness immediately.

Keep harness from coming in contact with sharp objects, DEET and any petroleum products.

Problem	Solution
Stitching is worn, torn, damaged	Do not use or leave the ground. Replace entire fall arrest system.
EXO-Tech harness unavailable	Do not leave the ground or use treestand or climbing aids.
Webbing or rope is torn, fraying or damaged	Do not use or leave the ground. Replace entire fall arrest system.
Missing parts	Do not use or leave the ground. Contact Gorilla, Inc.
Problems with EXO-Tech harness	Do not use or leave the ground. Contact Gorilla, Inc.

At Gorilla, we sell the safest, highest quality products available. We are confident that you will enjoy years of dependable service from your new Gorilla product. If you ever have questions or concerns regarding any Gorilla products, call Gorilla's Customer Service Department at 877-865-7817 or visit our website at www.gorillatreestands.com.