

November 2007



Hunting Season Safety

Safe Hunting Tips

Hunting is one of the safest outdoor-related activities that an individual can participate in. According to the National Safety Council's study of outdoor recreation-related injuries, sports such as foot ball, baseball, soccer and even billiards have a much higher incident rate than hunting.

According to Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division statistics show the total number of licenses sold for small and big game hunting were approximately 13.9 million from 2000 to 2006 with a total of 526 injuries and 22 deaths.

Common causes of Michigan Hunting incidents:

- ..# Falling from Treestands
- ..# Failure to identify your target
- ..# Self-inflicted incidents.

Here are some basic hunter safety rules to abide by:

- ..# Keep the Muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- ..# Treat every firearm with the respect due to a loaded gun.
- ..# Be sure of your target and what is in front of it and beyond it.
- ..# Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.
- ..# Use a small flashlight during dimlight conditions to identify yourself as a human being.
- ..# Never unload your firearm at an unknown object.
- ..# Hunt sober.
- ..# Abide by clothing regulations, 50% of a camouflage hunter orange garment must be worn.

Fall from treestands are a leading cause of injuries of for hunters, here are a few safety tips:

- ..# Follow the manufactures instructions prior to using an elevated platform.
- ..# Inspect you stand and tree prior to each use.
- ..# **Always** wear fall restraining device anytime you are climbing, sitting or descending from an elevated position.
- ..# **Always** pull your gun or bow up with a pull rope. Firearms should be unloaded, action open and safety on.

Hunter Education courses are certainly making a difference. Since the mandatory classes began, Michigan has seen a significant drop in hunting related injuries deaths. Still, each year there are a number of unfortunate accidents in the field.

**ALWAYS BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET BEFORE YOU SHOOT!
HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SEASON**



Deer Car Crashes

Nearly half of all car-deer crashes happen in the mating season—between October and December. The firearms deer hunting season is a particularly ripe time for deer-car collisions because hunters infiltrating the woods disturb the deer during their breeding season. Hunters are creating a lot of movement so you get that spike of activity. Hunters generally kill about 500,000 deer every year. But since more than 50 percent of those are males, the remaining female deer have fawns in the spring, keeping the population relatively stable.

If a crash between your vehicle and a deer were unavoidable, would you know what to do?

If a crash with a deer is unavoidable the Michigan Deer Crash Coalition recommends these steps:

- ... Don't Swerve!
- ... Brake Firmly.
- ... Hold on to the steering wheel. Come to a controlled stop.
- ... Pull well off the road, turn on emergency flashers and be cautious of passing traffic.
- ... Don't attempt to remove a deer from the roadway unless you are convinced it is dead, an injured deer's sharp hooves can easily hurt you.

Studies show that while swerving to avoid a crash with a deer may seem like the right thing to do, it is often the worst thing to do. Police statistics show very few persons are injured by simply striking a deer. Most serious injuries and deaths occur when drivers swerve out of control and hit a fixed object, like a tree or crash with an oncoming vehicle or roll over.

Michigan is deer country, and the best course of action is to drive defensively and follow these tips:

- ..# Drive with caution all-year round in deer habitat, especially on rural two-lane roads.
- ..# Deer can dart out from any direction without warning. Deer often travel in single file. If you see one whitetail cross the road, chances are there are more behind. Fasten your seat belts. They are the best protection for yourself and your family in the event of a collision.
- ..# Deer are most active near dawn and dusk, and especially during the fall mating season and in spring, when they are on the move to find food, often near roads, where the grass greens up first.
- ..# Be especially alert near deer warning signs. They are placed at known deer crossing areas to alert drivers of the possible presents of whitetails crossing in area.

CAMPUS EMERGENCY
Dial.....762-5666

Non-Emergency
Dial.....232-8989

Campus Closing
Dial.....232-8989

Preparing Your Family For a Disaster

In the event of an emergency, knowing what to do is your best protection **and** your responsibility. Families can better cope with disaster by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Some of the things that you can do to prepare for an emergency include: creating a family disaster plan, evacuation plan and preparing an emergency supply kit. Emergency Supplies kits should be customized to meet each family or individual's needs.

Recommended supplies include:

- # Water, one gallon or water per person per day, for drinking
- # Food, at least a three day supply of nonperishable food
- # Can opener
- # Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- # Flashlight and extra batteries
- # First Aid kit
- # Whistle to signal for help
- # Dust mask or cotton t-shirt to help filter the air
- # Post towelettes for sanitation
- # Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- # Tool kit with hammer, nails and scissors
- # Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place
- # Unique family needs, such as daily prescriptions medication,

Other items to consider adding to you Supply Kit:

- # Plastic cups, plates and utensils
- # Cash or change
- # Towels
- # Fire Extinguisher
- # Matches in a waterproof container.
- # Paper, pen or pencil
- # Personal hygiene items.
- # Clothesline rope.
- # Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- # Blankets
- # List of important phone numbers
- # Important family documents

MRSA—STAPH

According to the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD), there have been recent reports regarding student deaths associated with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, also known as **MRSA**. MRSA is a bacterium commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. It may cause skin infections and can be treated with or without antibiotics depending on the severity of the infection. MRSA can cause skin infections such as pimples, boils, and rashes that may be red swollen and painful and often contain puss. It can be spread by direct skin to skin contact with an infected person or contact with infected surfaces. MRSA is treatable and preventable. Treatments may include good wound and skin care and in some cases, the use of antibiotics may be required.

Prevention steps include:

- ... Practicing good hygiene.
- ...# Keeping hands clean by frequent hand-washing with soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ...# Keeping cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a clean, dry bandage until healed.
- ...# Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
- ...# Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.
- ...# See a doctor if you have symptoms of a staph infection or an infection that does not heal.

Schools, workplaces, and other facilities should take the following steps if someone is reported to have MRSA:

- ... Confirm the diagnosis through a physician.
- ... Follow routine infection control precautions.
- ... Follow routine procedures for cleaning the surfaces in your facility.

Persons with MRSA infection can attend school or work regularly with physician approval, as long as they keep the wound covered.

For information regarding MRSA, please visit the Genesee County website at www.gchd.us or call GCHD at 810-257-3155 or you may contact Mott Community College, Health Service at 810-762-0541.

Holiday Food Drive

October 29 through December 14, 2007

This is a collaborative effort with students, faculty and staff from Mott Community College, U of M-Flint, Kettering, & Baker College.

Campus drop off points: Prah Center, Public Safety Main Station, Continuing Education CM1117 and RTC Lobby.

Suggested food drive items: Non-perishable foods such as canned goods, baking mixes, pastas, sauces, cereals, and spices.

Personal care products such as shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toilet paper.

For monetary donations contact Sgt. Nancy Metcalfe at 810-762-0052.

***Proceeds benefit the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan**