

Avoiding Bowhunting Blunders

Dropping pull-up rope: Keep pull-up rope on the stand, or on your belt when descending. Always leave one in place on a permanent stand.

Water in the peep sight: Use a large aperture peep sight, such as 1/4". Even then, check occasionally to be sure no water (or fuzz) is plugging the peep sight.

Grinding noise when drawing: Keep fresh shrink tubing on all launching arms of your rest. Make sure it doesn't squeak.

Clanging an arrow against the bow riser: Use mole skin, or thin carpet, or other material to quiet the riser should your arrow slip off.

Bow limb hitting the stand or nearby limb: When you first get up in your stand, draw in several different positions and angles, checking to be sure the bow limbs won't hit the the stand or a limb upon release.

Arrow not being nocked properly: When drawing to check things out while in your tree stand, quite often the nock of the arrow will come off of the string. The arrow may appear to still be nocked, but it isn't. Any time you practice draw, always check to be sure the arrow nock is firmly on the string. This can happen to both a finger and release shooter.

Release aid not "hooked up": Whenever putting your release aid on the bow string, exert some pressure on it to be sure it is locked in.

Missed Shots: A common problem caused by rushing the shot or target panic. Take your time. Don't shoot until the pin is on the kill area of the deer. Make sure you've practiced enough (shooting form and range estimation) to hit what you are aiming at.