

EDUCATION STANDARDS

Basic Hunter
Education



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Hunter Education Curriculum	2.3
Reasons for Hunter Education & Justification for Hunting	2.4
Safe Firearm Handling	2.6
Safe Field Practices	2.19
Hunting Laws, Regulations & Wildlife Identification	2.29
Personal Responsibility & Next Steps	2.31

Cover photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Graphic design provided by Alex Evans & One Desk Solutions, LLC



**INTERNATIONAL
HUNTER EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION**

Write

PO Box 1320
Lolo, MT 59847

Call

303.430.7233

Email

helpdesk@ihea-usa.org

HUNTER EDUCATION

Core Curriculum

Course content designed for students to be instructed and assessed according to performance-based learning objectives related to safe, legal, and responsible hunting.

Safe

Justification for Hunter Education and Hunting

Safe Firearms Mechanical Handling

Safe Firearm Field Practices

Legal

Justification for Hunter Education and Hunting

Hunting Regulations

Wildlife Identification

Responsible

Justification for Hunter Education and Hunting

Key Wildlife and Management Principles

Hunter's Role in Conservation

Responsibility to Wildlife

Hunter Best Practices

Personal Responsibility and Behavior

Non-Core Curriculum

Course content designed for students to receive information about next steps.

Participate, Learn, Connect

To foster graduate participation in hunting, emphasize importance of continuing education, and illustrate value of mentorship and social support.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Reasons for Hunter Education & Justification for Hunting

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Justification for Hunter Education (A.1)	Why hunter education is important	Identify the purpose and importance of hunter education.	The goal of hunter education is to train safe, responsible and law abiding hunters. Hunter education is important because it: - Decreases hunting-related shooting incidents and other hunting injuries - Promotes responsible hunter behavior, including compliance with hunting laws and regulations	Legal, Safe, Responsible
Hunter's Role in Wildlife Conservation (A.2)	Role of hunting in conservation	Identify hunters and recreational hunting as key to wildlife conservation.	- Hunters are primary source of financial support that benefits all wildlife species - Hunters advocate and support legislation that protects wildlife resources - Hunters assist wildlife agencies with management of some wildlife populations	Responsible
Hunter's Role in Wildlife Conservation (A.3)	North American Model of Wildlife Conservation	Describe the central principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.	- Fish and wildlife are public resources and every citizen has the opportunity to pursue them within legal limits - Wildlife populations are sustained and scientifically managed by professionals in government agencies	Responsible
Hunter's Role in Wildlife Conservation (A.4)	Conservation funding for wildlife management, habitat management and hunter education.	Describe how license fees and excise taxes support wildlife conservation.	Wildlife management is funded largely by users who directly benefit from the resource. Two primary funding sources for wildlife management are: - Excise taxes on hunting equipment and ammunition from 1937 Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act - Revenue from state natural resource agencies, including hunting license fees	Responsible
Key Wildlife Ecology & Management Principles (A.5)	Basic factors of wildlife conservation	Describe how wildlife and habitat interact.	Factors that affect wildlife production and survival are: - Quality and amount of habitat - Climate - Reproductive potential of species Habitat: - Is most important factor affecting wildlife survival - Changes over time through natural succession providing benefits to distinct species at different stages of growth	Responsible

HUNTER EDUCATION

Reasons for Hunter Education & Justification for Hunting (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Key Wildlife Ecology & Management Principles (A.6)	Basic factors of wildlife conservation	Identify key components of wildlife habitat.	Habitat consists of: • Food • Water • Cover • Space • Arrangement	Responsible
Key Wildlife Ecology & Management Principles (A.7)	Biological basis of hunting	Define carrying capacity, biological surplus, and limiting factors	Carrying capacity is the number of animals a habitat can support throughout the year. This number is regulated by the quality of the habitat. The size of the population will grow when resources are abundant and decline when resources are scarce. Healthy populations fluctuate on an annual basis. Most increase in the spring and summer and decrease in the fall and winter. It is common for a species to exceed carrying capacity until various influences slow or stop population growth. These are called limiting factors. Resources required for survival – food, water, shelter, and living space – are limiting factors. Other limiting factors such as competition, predation, and disease also influence the size of a population. When populations fluctuate annually, the number of animals that are above the carrying capacity is called the biological surplus. It is common for a species to produce more animals each year than will survive to the next. When this happens, all extra or surplus animals will die due to disease, predation, or other mortality factors. Most harvest seasons occur in the fall and winter when this surplus is available and regulated hunting replaces the mortality factors that would otherwise reduce the population.	Responsible

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.8)	Major causes of incidents	Identify common causes of hunting and shooting-related incidents.	Four main types of hunting-related shooting incidents: - Hunter Judgment Mistakes—such as mistaking another person for game or not checking the foreground or background before firing - Safety Rule Violations—including pointing the muzzle in an unsafe direction and ignoring proper procedures for crossing a fence, obstacle, or difficult terrain - Lack of Control and Practice—which can lead to accidental discharges and stray shots - Mechanical Failure—such as an obstructed barrel or improper ammunition Most common causes of hunting incidents. - Failure to identify the target (15.5%) - Shooter swinging on game (12.8%) - Careless handling of firearm (11.4%) - Victim out of sight of shooter (8.3%) (NSSF, Industry Intelligence Reports, 2007)	Safe, Legal
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.9)	Parts of a firearm including safety mechanisms	Identify the basic parts of a firearm and state their purposes.	The three main parts of a firearm are the: Action: - Loads and fires ammunition - Ejects the spent case Stock: - Serves as a platform for supporting the action and barrel and is held by the shooter Barrel: - That part of a firearm through which a projectile or shot charge travels under pressure from burning gunpowder, compressed air or other like means. A barrel may be either smooth or rifled guides the projectile in the intended direction Rifling: - Is a pattern of spiral grooves cut into the bore of the barrel - Puts spin on a bullet when fired - Allows for more accurate shooting	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.10)	Parts of a firearm including safety mechanisms	Identify the basic parts of a firearm and state their purposes.	Other parts of the firearm include: Trigger: - Allows shooter to initiate the shot Trigger guard: - Protects trigger from unintended movement Safety: - A device that is designed to block the trigger and therefore to prevent the firearm from firing. A safety does not necessarily block the gun's firing mechanism. Never depend solely on a safety to prevent a gun from firing. Barrel stamp: - Specific information stamped on the side of the barrel about the correct ammunition (caliber or gauge) to use - Allows shooter to correctly match ammunition to the firearm Muzzle: - Part of barrel from which projectile emerges - Must always be pointed in a safe direction Sights: - Allow precise alignment of the firearm with the target	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.11)	Differences between rifles, shotguns and handguns	Describe the characteristics of rifles, shotguns and handguns.	Rifles and handguns: - Are distinguished by spiral grooves in the bore known as rifling - Fire cartridges typically with a single projectile called a bullet - Are aimed by aligning the sights and are fired by carefully squeezing the trigger to avoid disturbing sight picture - Are used for stationary targets - Extra care must be taken to control the muzzle of a handgun, because of the short barrel length Shotguns: - Usually have a smooth bore - Fire shotshells with multiple projectiles or a single projectile known as a slug - If designed to fire slugs, may have a rifled barrel - Are pointed, rather than aimed and are fired by quickly "slapping" the trigger when the shooter is ready to fire - Are typically used for moving targets in the air	Safe
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.12)	Basic rules of firearm safety	Apply the basic rules of firearm safety.	Four basic rules of firearm safety: - Always treat the firearm as if it is loaded - Control the muzzle by keeping the firearm pointed in a safe direction - Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot - Be sure of your target and what lies in front of and beyond	Safe
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.13)	Common firearm actions	Describe common types of modern firearm actions	Common firearm actions: - Bolt - Break or hinge - Lever - Pump or slide - Semi-auto	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.14)	Parts of ammunition	Describe how ammunition functions in a firearm.	Rifle and pistol cartridges consist of: • Case • Primer • Powder • Bullet Shotgun shells consist of: • Hull • Primer • Powder • Wad • Shot Cartridge or shotshell firing sequence: • Trigger is pulled • Firing pin strikes the primer, which ignites the powder in the case • Burning powder increases pressure from hot gases • Heat and pressure propel the bullet or shot and wad out of the barrel	Safe, Legal, Responsible
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.15)	Failure to fire	Describe how to safely handle a firearm during and after a misfire.	Steps to handle a misfire: • Maintain safe muzzle control • Keep the action closed and firearm pointed at a safe backstop • Wait 15 seconds (60 seconds for a muzzleloader) • If gun still has not fired, remove shell or cartridge from chamber	Safe
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.16)	Proper ammunition	Match ammunition to the respective caliber or gauge of a firearm.	Steps to correctly match ammunition to firearm: • Locate and understand barrel stamp on firearm • Locate and understand head stamp on ammunition • Correctly match proper caliber or gauge and length of shell • You must match the descriptions exactly A 20-gauge shotshell loaded into a 12-gauge shotgun can slide forward beyond the chamber causing a barrel obstruction. If a 12-gauge shotshell is loaded and fired, the obstruction can cause the barrel to rupture. (required example)	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.17)	Loading and unloading firearms	Show how to load and unload common modern firearm actions.	Specifics of safely loading and unloading firearms vary by manufacturer and firearm type. It is critical to refer to the manufacturer provided user manual to gain greater understanding of safely loading and unloading a specific firearm. Principles of safely loading and unloading a firearm: Loading sequence: • Point the muzzle in a safe direction • Engage the safety • Keep finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard • Open the action • Load the correct ammunition into the chamber or magazine • Close the action. The firearm is loaded • Confirm that the safety is engaged Unloading sequence: • Point the muzzle in a safe direction • Engage the safety • Keep finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard • Remove the magazine • Open the action • Eject cartridges if it is the only way to remove them • Physically and visibly check to make sure the chamber and magazine are empty • Confirm that the safety is engaged	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Alternative Methods of Harvest (A.18)	Primitive Arms	Identify parts of a muzzleloader and archery equipment and their functions	Muzzleloader: • Action or Lock - the mechanism that creates the spark, ignites the powder, and fires the muzzleloader. Flintlock, caplock, and inline are all types of actions. • Breech plug • Stock • Ramrod • Safety Compound Bow: • Limb • Riser • Arrow shelf • Grip • Limb pocket • Axle • String stop • Bowstring • Cables • Roller guard • Nocking point Crossbow: • Stock • Trigger • Latch • Arrow Retention Spring • Foregrip • Cam/Wheel (compound) • Cable • String • Serving • Limb • Cocking Stirrup • Riser	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Alternative Methods of Harvest (A.19)	Primitive Arms	Describe safety considerations for muzzleloader and archery equipment	Safety principles involving muzzleloaders • Always point muzzle in a safe direction • Never use modern, smokeless powder - only use black powder or a safe synthetic substitute • Do not cock the hammer of a muzzleloader until ready to fire. Utilize the half-cock position as a safety when the pan is primed or the nipple is capped. • Always use eye and ear protection • Never smoke or use an open flame when near black powder • Load powder from a calibrated powder measure • Use only brass loading equipment • Load only one charge at a time • Never blow down the barrel when loading • Unload before transporting the muzzleloader • Be attentive to a charged muzzleloader at all times • Follow manufacturers instructions for loading and unloading at all times	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
(A.19)			Safety principles involving archery equipment Bows: • Release arrow when path to target is clear • Have a proper backstop • Do not shoot in the general direction of other people • Never shoot straight up • Use finger and arm protection • Do not travel, walk, or ride with a nocked arrow • Carry arrows in a quiver with a solid cover to protect arrow points • Check your equipment before each use • Follow manufacturers instructions • Do not dry-fire Crossbows: • Do not dry-fire crossbows • Inspect bowstrings regularly • Adhere to manufacturer's instructions • Ensure fingers are outside of the path that the string travels • Do not walk, transport, or carry a loaded crossbow • Keep finger off trigger and outside trigger guard until ready to shoot • Keep arrows and broadheads in quiver when not in use • Raise and lower a cocked but unloaded crossbow using a string with the front of the crossbow pointed toward the ground	
Safe Airgun Handling (A.20)	Airgun Safety	Describe safety considerations for airgun use	• Read and understand manufacturer instructions for loading, unloading, and use. • All firearm safety rules remain applicable for airguns. • Practice caution with air cylinders and always have them filled at a reputable filling station.	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Handling (A.21)	Passing firearms safely	Show how to transfer a firearm from one hunter to another.	Basic rules for passing a firearm to another person: • Keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction • Unload the firearm with your back toward the other person • Engage the safety • With the action open, check the chamber and magazine to be sure there is no ammunition • With the action open, allow the recipient to verify that there is no ammunition in the chamber or magazine • Allow the recipient to grasp the firearm securely • Maintain your grip until the recipient acknowledges a secure hold by saying "Thank you" or "I got it"	Safe
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.22)	Shooting skill	Explain the fundamentals of rifle marksmanship or shotgun shooting.	Shooters should determine and use their dominant eye for shooting. Fundamentals of rifle marksmanship are: • Proper shooting position(s)(benchrest, prone, kneeling, sitting, standing) • Sight alignment • Sight picture • Breath control • Trigger squeeze • Follow through Fundamentals of accurate shotgun shooting include: • Proper stance • Mounting the shotgun • Pointing the shotgun • Proper lead on moving targets • "Slapping" the trigger • Follow through	Safe, Responsible

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.23)	Eye and ear protection	Explain why it is important to wear eye and ear protection while shooting.	Firing a cartridge: - Creates loud noise which can damage hearing - Sends the projectile down range - Discharges small particles of the projectile, burning gas and other residue which can damage eyes Wear eye and ear protection at all times when shooting	Safe
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.24)	Performance characteristics of ammunition	Describe the differences among rifle, shotgun and handgun ammunition	Characteristics of cartridges and shotshells greatly affect performance of projectiles. Cartridge and shotshell performance depends on: - Bullet weight - Shot size - Design of the projectile - Materials used to manufacture the projectile (i.e. copper, steel, lead) - Type and amount of gunpowder Rifles and handguns usually fire a single projectile, called a bullet, which is caused to spin by the rifled barrel. The spin leads to greater accuracy. Shotguns usually fire multiple projectiles, called shot. The pattern of the shot may be tightened (brought closer together) by the choke in the end of the barrel. Rifle and handgun bullets usually travel further than shotgun pellets.	Safe, Legal, Responsible

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
(A.24)			Shooter's choice of cartridge or shotshell should be based on: • Species to be hunted • Hunting Environment • Legal and responsible considerations • Responsible hunting practices include choosing ammunition that ensures a quick, humane harvest and complies with local, state, and federal regulations. • Some jurisdictions regulate certain calibers/ gauges and ammunition materials in specific locations or when hunting specific game species. Lead ammunition is not allowed everywhere, and alternatives exist such as copper, steel, and tungsten ammunition. <i>Using lead-free ammunition or best management practices that reduce the risk of unintended ingestion of lead by non-target wildlife is encouraged.</i> When not required by law, use of lead-free ammunition or actions to reduce unintended ingestion of lead is voluntary. Hunters that desire to reduce lead residue ingestion while using lead ammunition can take the following voluntary actions: • <i>Select appropriate ammunition</i> • <i>Recover spent materials</i> • <i>Practice using selected ammunition as performance may vary between lead and lead-free ammunition. Determine the performance characteristics of the chosen ammunition to allow for an ethical harvest.</i> • <i>Use all legal means to recover game</i> • <i>Remove entire animal as permitted by local jurisdictions</i> *Specific language in italic is required to be used within course content.	

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

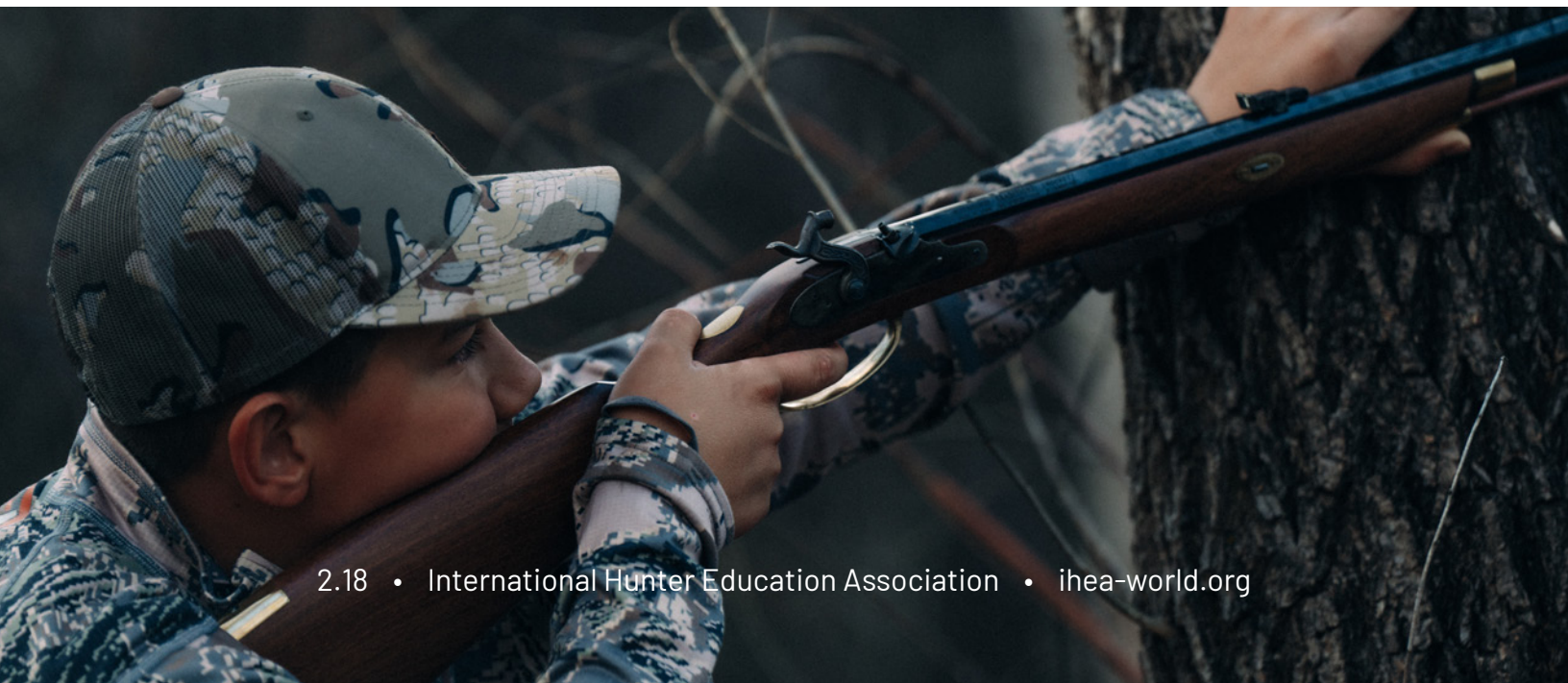
Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.25)	Performance characteristics of ammunition	Explain the importance of a safe backstop when taking a shot.	When shooting, a safe impact area is necessary. Backstop needs to be solid enough to capture fired bullets and is constructed of a material that will not allow ricochets. Also when hunting the shooter must be certain that the area beyond intended target is clear of any non-target objects. Examples of projectile travel distances: • .22 bullet can travel over 1 ½ miles • Centerfire bullet can travel several miles • Small shot can travel 200-350 yards • Larger shot can travel over 600 yards • Slugs can travel over 800 yards	Safe, Legal, Responsible
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.26)	Transporting firearms	Describe how to make a firearm safe for transport in a vehicle, watercraft, or ATV/UTV.	When transporting a firearm in a vehicle, boat, or on a horse, snowmobile, backpack with gun bearer, or ATV/UTV, firearms should: • Have the safety engaged • Be completely unloaded • Have the magazine removed • Be cased (except when carried in gun bearer)	Safe, Legal
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.27)	Cleaning firearms	List the steps to safely clean a firearm.	Cleaning firearms ensures safe, proper function of the action and performance of the ammunition. Steps for cleaning a firearm: • Safely unload the firearm • Remove all ammunition from the cleaning area • Use cloth and gun cleaning solvents to remove dirt, powder residue, skin oils and moisture from all metal parts of the firearm, including the action • Use cleaning rods, brushes, patches and solvent to clean the bore • Disassemble the firearm for more thorough cleaning • Apply a coating of gun oil to protect the firearm from rust	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Firearm Handling (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Handling (mechanics) (A.28)	Storing firearms	Describe how to safely store firearms and ammunition.	Safety precautions for firearm storage: • Firearms should be unloaded when stored • Firearms should be stored so that unauthorized persons cannot access them Preferred conditions for firearm storage: • Store firearms in a locked cabinet or safe • Store firearms and ammunition separately Control of firearms when not in storage: • A hunter must maintain physical control of firearms whenever they are not in storage to prevent unauthorized use. This could mean being physically present, using gun locking mechanisms or locking the firearms in a vehicle. • Firearms should be unloaded except when actually hunting. This includes in a home, yard or vehicle. • Family members should be taught what to do if they find a firearm which has not been properly stored.	Safe

Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Field Practices

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Field Practices (A.29)	Handling firearms in hunting situations	Describe how to make a firearm safe when entering or exiting a ground blind.	When entering or exiting a blind: - Keep muzzle(s) pointed in a safe direction - Safely unload the firearm(s) and engage the safety	Safe
Firearm Field Practices (A.30)	Proper field carries	Choose safe firearm carry methods while hunting alone and with others.	Methods of carry include: - Sling carry - Trail carry - Cradle carry - Elbow or side carry - Shoulder carry - Two-handed or "ready" carry When choosing a carry method, you must consider muzzle control. Never allow your muzzle to be pointed at anyone. Weather or terrain may limit your choices. Also keep your finger off the trigger and keep the safety "on". Two-handed or ready carry is the best carry for control of the muzzle and it allows the hunter to get into shooting position quickly. In case of a fall, the two-hand ready carry allows a hunter to: - Better control of the firearm with both hands - To keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Field Practices (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Field Practices (A.31)	Safe zones of fire	Apply the concept of safe zone of fire while hunting in groups.	A safe zone of fire is: - An area into which the hunter may safely shoot - An area where no persons, houses, outbuildings or domestic animals are in range When hunting with one or two partners: - Each hunter's zone of fire is the area that extends in a 45° angle directly in front of the hunter - Hunters must walk abreast - A hunter must never swing or shoot outside the safe zone of fire - Hunters must not move away from an established "stand" location without notifying all other hunters in the group - Changing location will change the safe zone of fire for not only that hunter but for the rest of the hunting party	Safe
Safe Firearm Field Practices (A.32)	Handling firearms in hunting situations	Choose the proper response when presented with safe/unsafe shot opportunities.	Before taking a shot the hunter must always: - Be sure of the target. Positive identification of the target eliminates "mistaken for game" incidents - Be sure of what lies in front of and beyond the target. Being sure of a safe backstop means that the projectile cannot hit an unintended target Also, never shoot at sky-lined animals or animals out of range. Extreme caution should be used when shooting at running or fast-moving game. Shoot only within your zone of fire. Do not shoot unless you are confident that you can make an effective shot.	Safe, Responsible

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Field Practices (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Field Practices (A.33)	Barrel obstructions	Explain how to identify and clear an obstruction from the barrel of a firearm	For clearing obstructions in a firearm: - Always point the muzzle in a safe direction - Open the action - Make certain that the chamber and magazine are unloaded - Check for obstructions by looking from the breech toward the muzzle, if possible - Alternatively, check from the breech using a tool, such as a barrel light - Clear the obstruction using a cleaning rod	Safe
Hunter Field Safety (A.34)	Elevated stands	Identify the causes of falls from an elevated stand.	The number one cause of injury or death when using elevated stands is falls. Falls from elevated stands are caused by: - Errors in the placement and use of equipment - Errors made while climbing into or out of the stand Falls may also be caused by equipment damage due to: - Weathering or stress - Insufficient familiarity with the equipment - Weather	Safe
Hunter Field Safety (A.35)	Elevated stands	Identify safe practices for hunting from an elevated stand.	Always use caution when off the ground. Stay attached with a full body harness/fall arrest system (FBH/FAS) whenever off the ground. A full body fall arrest system should include a full body harness with a tether strap and lineman's belt and a suspension relief system. Users should: - Follow the manufacturer's instructions - Practice at ground level before climbing - Inspect the stand and accessories before each use - Use three points of contact when climbing - Never climb into or out of a stand with a loaded firearm - Use a haul line to safely raise and lower unloaded firearms, bows or other equipment	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Field Practices (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Hunter Field Safety (A.36)	Full Body Harness/Fall Arrest Systems	Explain how the fall arrest system/full body harness is essential for reducing the risk of serious injury.	A properly used full body harness/fall arrest system (FBH/FAS): - Prevents the wearer from falling to the ground - Has a shock absorbing feature built into the tether - Includes suspension relief to avoid suspension trauma - Allows the wearer to re-enter the treestand Tethers should have no slack when sitting to prevent a wearer from falling any distance should the system be weighted. This results in suspension with the ability to recover into your treestand. Some systems allow a safe and gradual descent to the ground in the event that it is not possible to re-enter the stand.	Safe
Hunter Field Safety (A.37)	Full Body Harness/Fall Arrest Systems	Describe how to recover from a tree-stand fall.	- Do not panic—the full body harness/fall arrest system (FBH/FAS) will hold you - Signal for help - Recover and get back on the platform as quickly as possible - Take action to avoid suspension trauma if you cannot quickly get back on the platform or the ground. Your FAS/FBH should have a suspension relief strap, step into the loop and stand up to relieve pressure caused by the leg straps. If you do not have a suspension relief strap, keep moving your legs.	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Field Practices (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Safe Firearm Field Practices (A.38)	Crossing obstacles	Show how to cross an obstacle or hazardous terrain when hunting alone and with others.	To safely unload a firearm: • Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times • Engage the safety and unload • Keep the action open When crossing fences, logs and other obstacles alone: • Safely unload the firearm • Cover the muzzle • Keeping the muzzle in a safe direction, place the firearm on the opposite side of the obstacle, with the barrel pointing away from crossing point • Cross the obstacle on the stock side of firearm away from the muzzle (near a post if crossing a fence) • Retrieve the firearm. Keep the muzzle in a safe direction, fingers off the trigger and outside of the trigger guard. • Check the barrel for obstructions before loading and continuing the hunt. Remember to engage the safety. When crossing obstacles with one or more hunting partners: • Safely unload all firearms while standing back to back • The first hunter hands their firearm to the second hunter • The second hunter visually confirms that both firearms are unloaded and that the actions are open and verbally confirms control of both firearms by saying "I got it" or "Thank you" • The first hunter crosses the obstacle (near a post if crossing a fence) • The second hunter passes both firearms to the first hunter using visual and verbal confirmations • The second hunter crosses the obstacle (near a post if crossing a fence) and retrieves his or her firearm using visual and verbal confirmations • Both hunters stand back to back to reload, before continuing the hunt	Safe

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Field Practices (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Hunter's Best Practices (A.39)	Hunter orange	Explain the importance of wearing blaze orange to reduce hunting-related shooting incidents	Wearing blaze orange allows an individual to be more easily seen and identified as a human. Wearing blaze orange reduces hunting-related shooting incidents. Most states require hunters to wear blaze orange clothing for certain hunting activities.	Safe, Legal
Hunter's Best Practices (A.40)	Avoid alcohol and drug consumption	Identify reasons for avoiding alcohol and drug consumption prior to and during the hunt.	Alcohol and drug consumption prior to and while hunting can impair a hunter's motor skills and judgment, leading to serious injuries or death	Safe, Legal, Responsible
Hunter's Best Practices (A.41)	Outdoor preparedness	Identify items that should be included in a survival kit	Items chosen for a survival kit should be based on certain factors: • Knowledge and skills of the user: do not include items without the skills required to use them • Environment: items should be included based on expected environmental conditions • Remoteness of location: distance from help may indicate extended duration of rescue Standard survival kit items: • Fire building device • Method of procuring safe water for drinking • Personal first aid kit • Signaling device, material for shelter construction • Map & compass • Emergency food Additional items should be included based on user and location specific factors.	Safe, Responsible

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Field Practices (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Hunter's Best Practices (A.42)	Outdoor preparedness	Describe the essential steps necessary to survive an emergency situation in the outdoors.	During an emergency situation a hunter should: • Stop—remain calm and analyze situation • Think—what should I do now • Observe—survey terrain and look for familiar land marks • Plan—what's the next best course of action A hunter should remember and follow the STOP principle.	Safe, Responsible
Hunter's Best Practices (A.43)	Outdoor Preparedness-Prepare a hunt plan	Identify reasons for preparing and following a hunt plan.	A hunter should prepare and follow a hunt plan in case of becoming: • Lost • Sick • Injured A hunter should leave the hunt plan with a friend or family member so that searchers will know where to find the hunter. If the plan changes during the hunt, then the hunter should notify others to update the plan. A hunter should prepare and follow a plan when hunting in groups to prevent accidental shootings. A well-planned hunt is usually more successful.	Safe, Responsible
Hunter's Best Practices (A.44)	Outdoor Preparedness-Physical conditioning	Explain the importance of personal preparedness when outdoors.	Preparation is important for reducing the likelihood of serious emergencies while hunting. Staying in shape can prevent exhaustion and heart attacks. Carrying medication for known medical conditions allows immediate treatment in the field. Proper clothing and a survival kit can be used to reduce the effects of changing weather conditions.	Safe, Responsible

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Field Practices (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Hunter's Best Practices (A.45)	Outdoor preparedness	Identify causes, symptoms and treatments of hypothermia and hyperthermia	Hypothermia is a decrease in the body's core temperature caused by cold, wind and wet conditions. Signs and symptoms of hypothermia are: • Early stage hypothermia - judgment begins to fail, protective instincts fade, decreased fine motor skills, shivering begins as constant, uncontrollable fine motor tremor. • Advanced stage hypothermia - shivering progresses in intensity, coordination fails, waning awareness of being cold, slurred speech, inability to stand or walk. If untreated, symptoms will progress until the victim becomes unconscious. To treat hypothermia: • Remove the victim from cold, windy and wet conditions (move to or create shelter) • Remove wet clothing and dry the victim well, replace with dry insulating layers • Re-warm gradually • If the victim is conscious and can safely drink, provide sugary drinks to sip. Do not give food. • Get medical help if severe If the victim is experiencing severe hypothermia (unconscious), avoid excessive movement, seek medical help immediately, do not perform CPR.	Safe, Responsible

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Field Practices (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
(A.45)			Hyperthermia is a medical condition caused by the body temperature being abnormally high. This is caused by prolonged exposure to heat, excessive physical exercise or certain medical conditions. There are two categories of Hyperthermia: • Heat exhaustion • Heat stroke Heat exhaustion is caused by: • Excessive heat • Dehydration Signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion include: • Cool, clammy, pale skin • Thirst • Fatigue • Weakness • Dizziness • Headache • Nausea • Muscle cramps To treat heat exhaustion: • Move victim to cool or shady place • Remove any excess clothing that may trap heat • Replace lost fluids and salt • Keep victim inactive • Seek medical attention if severe If left untreated, heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke which is a life-threatening condition. Signs and symptoms of heat stroke: • Skin will be red, hot, and dry (skin may be wet if in humid environment) • Loss of the ability to sweat • Victim will be disoriented, confused, combative, or may hallucinate • Victim may experience seizures To treat heat stroke: • Cool the victim rapidly (apply wet cloths, fan the victim, move to shade, remove as many clothes as possible) • Vigorously massage limbs • Seek immediate medical care (continue to cool while traveling)	

HUNTER EDUCATION

Safe Field Practices (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Hunter's Best Practices (A.46)	Outdoor preparedness	State the importance of wearing a personal flotation device (PFD) when hunting on the water.	A personal flotation device (pfd) is worn to: • Keep the individual afloat in water • Prevent drowning • Delay the onset of hypothermia	Safe, Responsible
Hunter's Best Practices (A.47)	Outdoor preparedness	State the importance of first-aid training for hunters.	First aid skills are necessary to treating life threatening emergencies while hunting, such as: • Heart attacks • Drowning • Broken bones • Cuts and bleeding • Tree stand falls • Burns • Snakebites Other issues may be specific to individual jurisdictions. *If the course provides specific information on field based emergencies, medical specific standards are applicable for the accreditation review. (See Appendix C)	Safe, Responsible

Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



HUNTER EDUCATION

Hunting Laws, Regulations & Wildlife Identification

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Hunting Regulations (A.48)	The reasons for hunting laws and regulations; entities responsible for regulating hunting	Explain why hunting laws and regulations are important.	Hunting laws and regulations have been enacted to: • Protect people and property • Protect wildlife populations • Ensure fair chase • Ensure a fair distribution of game	Legal, Responsible
Wildlife Identification (A.49)	Wildlife identification skills for hunters	Explain the importance of wildlife identification skills for hunting.	Correct identification of wildlife species can: • Prevent unintentional killing of non-target wildlife • Prevent accidental shootings during which people are “mistaken for game”	Safe, Legal, Responsible
Hunting Regulations (A.50)	Use resources for finding current hunting regulations.	Locate information regarding hunting regulations by using an official resource.	Resources for hunting regulation, places to hunt, and species-specific information include: • Official state publications • Wildlife agency websites • Hunting access guides or booklets • Mapping software • Contact with agency personnel These resources provide information regarding: • How to obtain a license • Hunting season dates and hours • Hunting implements – legal means and methods • Hunter orange requirements • Bag limits and other restrictions on taking game • Permit and/or stamp requirements • Tagging, transporting and reporting requirements • Trespass laws	Legal

HUNTER EDUCATION

Hunting Laws, Regulations & Wildlife Identification (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Wildlife Identification (A.51)	Wildlife identification skills for hunters	Identify game species and their distinguishing features.	Game animals are wildlife that can be hunted legally. Game animals: • Are useful, often for food • Are abundant and have populations levels that can be sustained • Offer a unique or traditional challenge for hunters State resource agencies typically classify wildlife species into several categories including big game, small game, upland game, migratory game birds, furbearers, non-game and endangered species (including threatened and special concerns). Characteristics to consider with identifying wildlife: • General description (shape, size, color, and distinguishing features) • Habitat and range • Behaviors such as daily activity patterns • Wildlife sign such as tracks, scat, and calls	Safe, Legal, Responsible

Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



HUNTER EDUCATION

Personal Responsibility & Next Steps

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Personal Responsibility and Behavior (A.52)	Responsible and respectful hunters, behaviors that promote positive image of hunters and hunting	Describe how responsible hunters show respect for natural resources, other hunters, landowners, non-hunters and themselves.	Responsible hunter: • Respects wildlife and the environment • Respects landowners and property • Shows consideration for non-hunters • Hunts safely • Knows and obeys hunting laws • Supports wildlife conservation • Hunts using fair chase methods • Becomes knowledgeable about wildlife • Hunts only with ethical hunters and reports those that violate regulations A responsible hunter will: • Display game in a respectful and responsible manner • Wear clean, appropriate clothing in public places • Present a professional image when talking to the media • Avoid alcohol and drugs before or during a hunt • Take tasteful photographs • Harvest only as much game as can be used or shared	Safe, Legal, Responsible
Personal Responsibility and Behavior (A.53)	Responsible and respectful hunters promote positive image of hunters and hunting	Explain why developing responsible hunting behavior is important for every hunter and the future of hunting.	Hunters should develop a personal code of conduct (sportsman's code), which includes but is not limited to: • Following laws and regulations • Ensuring proper and appropriate behavior at all times By developing this code, the hunter will be able to: • Act more responsibly • Respect his or her own behavior Positive actions by responsible hunters lead to a more positive image of hunters by the public. The result can be greater acceptance of and support for hunting, as well as greater awareness and interest in becoming a hunter.	Legal, Responsible

HUNTER EDUCATION

Personal Responsibility & Next Steps (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Personal Responsibility and Behavior (A.54)	Hunters who follow fair chase principles show respect for game.	Describe the concept of "fair chase".	Fair chase balances the skills and equipment of the hunter with the abilities of the animal to escape. Standards of fair chase are defined by: • Law • Regional preferences • Personal choice Fair chase is primarily defined by individuals and their level of hunting ability. The expert hunter may use more restrictive and less effective techniques than the novice hunter. Fair chase emphasizes self-restraint and the development of skills.	Responsible
Responsibility to Wildlife (A.55)	Effective shot placement ensures a quick kill.	Describe effective shot placement for a quick kill.	Hunters must understand the anatomy of the birds and animals they hunt to kill game quickly. The effective kill shot for: • Big game is the heart, lung and liver • Turkeys is in the head and neck • Flying birds is in the head, spine, heart and lungs to ensure recovery Hunters must adjust their shots for: • Varying angles in relation to the game • Location of large bones in big game Broadside or quartering away shots are most effective for big game	Responsible

HUNTER EDUCATION

Personal Responsibility & Next Steps (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Responsibility to Wildlife (A.56)	Game Recovery –Tracking techniques and reading sign	Describe the basic steps of big game recovery.	- A responsible hunter will make every reasonable effort to retrieve downed game. - Wait for a period of time before trailing the game. Normally this time period is between ½ and 1 hour - Make practice of carefully observing every movement of a game animal after you shoot it - Once at the site look for signs: - Blood on the ground or vegetation - Broken twigs or branches, or scattered leaves - A “dew” line if early in the morning - Tracks - Hair, meat or bone fragments - Downhill trails, especially towards water - When a downed animal is found, approach the animal carefully from above and behind the head - Check the animals eyes. The eyes of a dead animal are normally open - If the animal is still alive, it should be finished with a well-placed lethal shot - Once the animal is dead, follow the state’s regulations for reporting or recording a kill. You may be required to immediately sign, date, and affix a tag to the animal - Then begin field dressing	Legal, Responsible
Responsibility to Wildlife (A.57)	Proper and legal care of game helps prevent meat spoilage	Describe how to properly and legally care for harvested game.	Hunters use harvested game to provide meat for the table, it should never be wasted. Big game must generally be tagged immediately. Removing internal organs of all harvested game animals by field dressing should be done as soon as possible after the kill to delay meat spoilage. Heat, dirt and moisture can spoil meat. Latex gloves can protect hunters from wildlife diseases	Legal, Responsible

HUNTER EDUCATION

Personal Responsibility & Next Steps (Cont.)

Curricula Category (Std. #)	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Responsibility to Wildlife (A.58)	Proper selection of a firearm for hunting satisfies legal requirements and supports accuracy	Select a proper firearm and ammunition for the game to be hunted.	Firearms chosen for hunting must often meet minimum legal requirements for caliber, gauge or energy produced by the projectile. The firearm for hunting should be powerful enough to kill game: • Quickly • Effectively The firearm should fit the hunter to allow accurate shooting. Many shooters practice more often and shoot more proficiently if they use a firearm with moderate recoil. Selection of ammunition for hunting should be based on the type of game to be hunted. Most manufacturers recommend specific ammunition for each species. For hunting with a shotgun, be sure to select the proper choke and ammunition combination.	Legal, Responsible

Photo courtesy of Savage Arms

