

BOWHUNTING

A Bowhunting Permit is required by anyone who hunts big game, game bird, wolf or coyote with a bow and arrow.

A Bowhunting Permit is required in combination with a big game licence.

Persons hunting big game must use an authorized bow and an authorized arrow.

An authorized bow is one that is held, drawn and released by muscular power and has a draw weight of not less than 18 kg (40 lb.).

This is the number of kilograms (pounds) required to draw an arrow of 71 cm (28 in.) to its head.

An authorized arrow is one that is not less than 61 cm (24 in.) in length that has a tip that bears a head that is not intentionally designed to resist being withdrawn after it has penetrated an object.

Furthermore, it must either have a solid, sharp cutting head of at least 7/8 inch in width, or a head that, when the arrow impacts, opens to present sharp cutting edges at least 7/8 inch in width.

Hunters are asked to remove their tree stands at the end of the hunting seasons unless permission has been granted by the landholder to do otherwise.

HUNTING WITH CROSS-BOWS

Since the fall season of 2002, cross-bows are no longer "prohibited" for hunting wildlife in Alberta, although there may be federal licensing

requirements.

Cross-bows may not be used to hunt big game during archery-only seasons.

The only exception is for an eligible handicapped hunter who has obtained a cross-bow license.

In accordance with federal regulations, cross-bows may not be used for waterfowl hunting.

Persons hunting big game with a cross-bow must use an authorized cross-bow and arrow (bolt).

An authorized cross-bow is one that requires 100 pounds or more of pull to draw the string or cable to its cocked position.

There is no restriction on arrow length however it must have a solid, sharp cutting head of at least 7/8 inch in width, or a head that, when the arrow impacts, opens to present sharp cutting edges at least 7/8 inch in width.

ARROWS

As we all know, the golden rule--when it comes to arrows used for Bowhunting--is that they be razor sharp!

Every experienced Bowhunter understands this rule to be a matter of ethics and good procedure to insure efficient harvest of game.

After all, unlike firearms which bring down game predominately by shock, archery tackle in skilled hands accomplishes the same task by hemorrhage.

The sharper your Broadheads are the more massive hemorrhages will be, with well

placed shots.

Subsequently, the more effective your tackle will be.

Clean, humane harvesting of game is a big responsibility for all Bowhunters. Razor sharp Broadheads go a long way toward meeting this responsibility!

Another clear responsibility Bowhunters have is safety for themselves and others.

Both handling and hunting with these razor sharp Broadheads present obvious risks which can be minimized by proper techniques.

Most experienced Bowhunters, who have hunted for any significant period of time, can testify to cutting themselves while handling broadheads.

These wounds can be extremely serious with devastating consequences. Especially if they occur far afield from professional medical attention.

The following guidelines list some (not necessarily all) precautions you should take when handling and hunting with arrows in order to reduce the possibility of having any unfortunate mishaps:

- > Arrow spine should always match the poundage and draw length of your bow.
- > Always be sure of your target and what is beyond it.

- Never shoot at targets on the crest of a hill, at the edge of a ledge, etc.
 - Always use Broadhead Wrenches when handling Broadheads.
 - Always inspect your arrows, along with the balance of your archery tackle, to insure it is not damaged prior to use. Damaged, bent, cracked arrows can fail catastrophically when shot, likely resulting in personal injury.
 - Never climb fences or into tree stands with arrows nocked on your bow.
 - Place bows with arrows in the quiver under fences and climb over a few feet away so you can't fall on your tackle if you do fall.
 - Always hoist bows with arrows, and everything else for that matter, into your tree stands with a hauling line after you are safely in the stand with your safety harness on.
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- Never carry arrows nocked on your bow until you are actively stalking game. Bowhunters have stumbled, cutting themselves or others with them.
 - Always use a covered quiver to protect yourself and others from your Broadheads.
 - Always store archery tackle in the trunk of your vehicle in order to prevent passengers from injuring themselves with it. In the event

of a motor vehicle accident this reduces "missiles" in the vehicle as well.

- Always sharpen Broadheads away from your body to avoid cuts.
- When recovering harvested game, check your arrow first. Are all your Broadhead blades still in place? If not, use extreme caution during field dressing!
- Never shoot arrows straight up in the air.

If you follow these rules you should hopefully avoid a mishap with hunting arrows.

Common sense goes a long way toward preventing accidents.

Most so-called accidents are usually the result of folks just plain forgetting to use their heads!

A Few Safety Tips !

- Get in shape well in advance of hunting season. It'll make those hills seem a little smaller, the drag a little easier, and might prevent a heart attack!
- Use a full body harness with climbing aid from the moment you leave the ground until you safely return. Many falls occur while ascending and descending to and from elevated stands.
- Carry a fully charged cell phone, or at the very least a loud whistle, so you can call or sound for help if needed in

an emergency.

- Always clearly and positively identify your target and what is beyond.
- Make sure your knife, whistle, cell phone or radio are on your person, not in your pack. If you should fall they need to be accessible.
- Hunt with a buddy! If you must hunt alone be sure that somebody knows exactly where you'll be.
- Wear blaze orange while hunting the overlapping firearms seasons. Being mistaken for game accounts for a high number of accidents.