

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

The Ambush

Model MSH500

ATTENTION!!

WHEN YOU SEE A "A WARNING!" BE SURE TO HEED THE MESSAGE!
THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THESE MESSAGES
CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!!

PLEASE NOTE THAT WARNING! statements have been placed throughout this Instruction Manual. These statements point out important safety information and instructions, which, if not followed could endanger the personal safety and/or property of the operator. It is imperative that the operator of this product, or any other product(s) read and follow all the instructions and warnings contained in this Manual prior to attempting to use this product(s), or any other product(s). Failure to comply with these instructions and/or warnings may result in serious personal injury or death!



USAGE INSTRUCTIONS & WARNINGS

MSH500 • AMBUSH

HARNESS WEIGHT - 1.9 lbs/.86 kg

SIZE • ONE SIZE FITS MOST

CARRYING CAPACITY (USER(S) AND EQUIPMENT) 300 lbs/136 kg

▲ WARNING! These Muddy® products carry strict weight restrictions. DO NOT use these product(s) if you exceed these total weight limitations. Please note that these weight limitations include the user and their equipment. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

A "Treestand Safety" DVD has been included. Please view it in its entirety prior to using this product!

Thank you for your purchase of this quality Muddy® product(s). To ensure your personal safety, please take a moment to carefully read this Instruction Manual in its entirety before attempting to set-up, install, remove and/or otherwise use this Muddy® product(s). Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

Please note that "WARNING!" statements have been placed throughout this Instruction Manual. These statements point-out important safety information and instructions, which, if not followed could endanger the personal safety and/or property of the operator. It is imperative that the operator of this product, or any other Muddy® product(s) read and understand all the instructions and warnings contained in this Instruction Manual prior to attempting to use this product(s), or any other Muddy® product(s). Failure to comply with these instructions and/or warnings may result in serious injury or death! When you see a "WARNING!" statement- be sure to heed the message!

WARNING! Failure to read and strictly comply with the instructions contained here may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! Read all the information included here prior to attempting to use this full-body fall arrest harness. Your full-body fall arrest harness is designed for a maximum capacity (user & equipment) of 150 pounds (68.04 kg). Additionally, your full-body fall arrest harness must be replaced after three (3) years of service! Please contact Muddy® for full-body fall arrest harness replacement procedure shall you experience a fall or shall it exceed the three (3) year service period.

WARNING! Do not remove, modify and/or omit any portion or otherwise mechanically modify this Muddy® product(s) or its assemblies in any manner unless explicitly authorized in writing by the manufacturer. Modification, misuse and/or part substitution may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! This Muddy® product(s) is designed for adult use only. No one under the age of 16 shall attempt to use this or any other Muddy® product(s) without direct adult supervision. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! ALWAYS inspect/check ALL expiration dates/tags on all straps (e.g., tree belt, harness tether/lanyard, etc.) and the full-body fall arrest harness and its components prior to each use. Never use any strap(s) or full-body fall arrest harness that has expired and/or is showing any signs of damage and/or wear. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury and death!

WARNING! Prior to attempting to use this or any other product(s) you must take a moment and become familiar with its assembly, setup, installation, use and removal. You must practice installing, using and removal of your full-body fall arrest harness at ground-level prior to attempting to use it at heights above ground-level. Once you have become thoroughly knowledgeable and comfortable with this product(s) setup, installation, use and removal at ground-level, you are now ready to use it at heights above ground-level. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! You must practice putting the full-body fall arrest harness on, adjusting and the use of your full-body fall arrest harness at ground-level in the presence of a **responsible adult** to experience the feeling of hanging suspended before using in a hunting environment. This experience will ensure you remain calm and collected shall you experience a fall while hunting. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! The length of the full-body fall arrest harness tether must be kept to a minimum at all times during use. It shall be adjusted so that it is above the head with no slack (snug) in the sitting position and you shall have the minimum amount of slack possible when climbing. Never let the harness tether strap get under your chin or around your neck. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! You must always wear your Muddy® full-body fall arrest system (FAS) at all times after leaving the ground. Additionally, you must stay connected at all times after leaving the ground while using climbing and hang-on treestands. Single safety belts and/or chest harnesses are no longer allowed and shall never be used as they put the user at serious risk of injury or death. If you are not wearing your fall arrest system that is properly attached to the tree that is protecting you from a fall, do not leave the ground. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! Never rely on a tree branch for support while climbing. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! You must always inform someone of your hunting location, where the treestand will be located and the expected duration of the hunt. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! This Muddy® full-body fall arrest harness is intended to be used in conjunction with another manufacturer's treestand product. It is imperative that you carefully read the Instruction Manual that accompanies your treestand. The instructions included in the treestand manufacturer's Instruction Manual will guide you in the safe use and operation of their treestand. Failure to follow their instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! DO NOT use this product, or attempt to use a treestand, on leaning or irregular shaped trees that do not allow for a level standing platform. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death

WARNING! DO NOT attempt to use this or any other Muddy® product(s) when thunderstorms are threatening and/or present within five (5) miles (8 km). Do not attempt to use this or any other Muddy® product(s) when any other adverse weather condition(s) presents itself. These include weather conditions which have the potential for producing winds, lighting, rain, snow, sleet and/or any other atmospheric condition which may limit the user's ability to operate this Muddy® product(s) in a safe manner as described in this Instruction Manual. Shall any of these conditions exist, do not climb the tree. Shall any of these conditions arise while hunting from an elevated position, immediately end your hunt and return to ground-level. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury and death!

WARNING! DO NOT use this or any other Muddy® product(s) if you have a history of heart problems, back problems, impaired vision, equilibrium problems, high blood pressure or any other physical impairment that may limit your ability to use and/or operate this product(s) in the safe manner outlined in the Instruction Manual. Additionally, do not use this or any other Muddy® product(s) if you are currently taking any medication (including prescription) and/or using and/or consuming any substance, including alcohol, that may limit your ability to use this Muddy® product(s) as outlined and described in this Instruction Manual. 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. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! ALWAYS maintain 3-point 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 at all times when climbing up or down. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! DO NOT modify, fix/repair, alter, bend, cut, weld, drill or heat this product in any way. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! DO NOT lean out from a tree stand for any reason. Never use your Muddy® full-body fall arrest harness to help you lean out of your stand to make a difficult shot. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! You must practice installing, adjusting, using and removing your treestand at ground-level prior to using at elevated positions. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! Shall you experience a fall there is time to make a correct decision on what action needs to take place. It is important to remember: **DO NOT PANIC!** Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! If you have a limiting physical and/or health condition that precludes and/or renders you incapable of self-recovery and/or a suitable escape plan is not available, **DO NOT** hunt from heights above ground-level. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! Falls from a treestand can occur anytime after leaving the ground. These falls could result in either serious injury or death! For your personal safety, please take a moment to carefully read this product instruction manual in its entirety before attempting to assemble, set-up, install and/or otherwise use this Muddy® product(s). At least annually, review the contents of this instruction manual and watch the safe treestand hunting dvd. Additionally, keep these instructions for the entire duration that you own this product(s). Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

warning! The safe use and operation of this product(s) is the sole responsibility of the owner to provide any person(s) who borrow or purchase this product(s) from them with these complete instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death! Additionally, failure to follow these instructions may subject you to personal liability penalties as determined by the U.S. Judicial system.

WARNING! Prior to each hunt, make sure that you have a signaling device (e.g., mobile phone, radio, whistle, signal flare, Personal Locator Device [PLD], etc.) in your possession and on your person in an operable condition. This device must be within easy access shall you experience the need to contact emergency assistance. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! Practice the use of your Muddy® full-body fall arrest harness and Suspension Relief Device (SRD) at ground-level in the presence of a responsible adult to experience the feeling of hanging suspended before using in a hunting environment. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! NEVER allow the full-body fall arrest harness tether to get under your chin or around your neck. This poses a choking hazard that can lead to serious injury or death. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

MARNING! Failure to follow full-body fall arrest harness instructions could result in not being able to return to the stand and being suspended in a full-body fall arrest harness after a fall. If your communication efforts are unsuccessful, you must have a personal plan for self-recovery/escape shall you experience a fall. Prolonged suspension in a full-body fall arrest 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. Varying degrees of physical fitness may require different plans for self-recovery/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 selfrecovery/escape plan for your hunting situation before leaving the ground. There is time to make a correct decision on what action to take if a fall occurs while wearing a full-body fall arrest harness. It is important to remember, **DO** NOT PANIC. Remain calm and implement your practiced rescue, relief and recovery plan. Hunt from the ground when a self-recovery/escape ability is absent. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or

WARNING! Do not expose this full-body fall arrest harness to ozone in any quantity in an enclosed environment. Exposure to even the slightest amounts of ozone in an enclosed environment will severely degrade the integrity of the harness and will cause it to structurally fail while in use. Failure to follow these instructions will result in serious injury or death!

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR CLIMBING TREESTAND USAGE

DANGER! You must consider the gradual taper of the tree trunk as it grows up from the ground. As you climb, you will find it necessary to adjust the tree belt to accommodate this gradual narrowing. Make certain to make these adjustments as you climb or descend the tree. Platform level adjustments shall not be made anywhere except at ground-level (except for those special cases of products designed and intended to be safely adjusted in accordance with manufacturer's instructions).

DANGER! Two-piece climbing treestands must have a tether connecting the seat platform and the standing platform. It must be secure and at the proper length recommended by the manufacturer. Refer to your treestand Instruction Manual for specific instructions.

WARNING! While ascending or descending, adjustments to the harness tether and tree belt must be made. Always maintain the least amount of slack in the tree belt/lanyard. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

DANGER! You must familiarize yourself with the use of climbers by practicing at ground-level before using it at heights above ground-level. Refer to your treestand Instruction Manual for specific instructions.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-CLIMBING (HANG-ON OR LOCK-ON STYLE) TREESTAND USAGE

WARNING! You must use the lineman's belt when installing hang-on or lock-on treestands to stabilize yourself. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

DANGER! Correct tightening and adjustments of chains, cables, straps, etc. are critical to stable hang-on or lock-on treestand installation. All treestand contact points must be in contact with the tree before you step onto your stand. Refer to your treestand Instruction Manual for specific adjustment instructions.

DANGER! Practice the attachment of hang-on or lock-on treestands at ground-level before using in a hunting environment. Refer to your treestand Instruction Manual for specific instructions.

DANGER! Never leave a treestand in a tree for more than two weeks as weather and/or animals could cause damage. Tree growth can also stress and damage straps and buckles. Refer to your treestand Instruction Manual for specific instructions.

DANGER! Climbing aids (e.g., stick ladders, sectional ladders, steps, etc.) must extend above the treestand standing platform (at least 24") to allow the user to step down onto the platform. Never step up to your stand from a climbing aid. Refer to your treestand Instruction Manual for specific instructions.

WARNING! Use a haul line to raise and lower the treestand. Never climb with anything on your back. Refer to your treestand Instruction Manual for specific instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR LADDERSTAND USAGE

WARNING! The means to secure and stabilize the treestand/ladderstand must be attached before climbing to the standing/seating platform. Refer to your treestand/ladderstand Instruction Manual for specific instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! Check every ladder section connection each time prior to beginning to climb the stand. If ladder sections are separating, do not use the stand. Refer to your treestand Instruction Manual for specific instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

warning! Check the ground under the stand to make sure it is firm and level. Sloping ground or an uneven surface(s) (e.g., one side on a rock) can cause your ladder to tilt or shift off the tree as you climb. Refer to your treestand Instruction Manual for specific instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! Maintain 3-points of contact when climbing a ladder treestand. Refer to your treestand Instruction Manual for specific instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! Always lean forward as you climb and attach your Muddy® full-body fall arrest harness to the tree before securing the platform to the tree and stepping onto the platform. Refer to your treestand Instruction Manual for specific instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

warning! BEFORE each use, make sure that no damage has occurred to hardware and that the webbing is not cut or frayed. Keep webbing from coming into contact with any sharp edges. DO NOT USE THIS PRODUCT IF ANY DAMAGE IS SUSPECTED. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! This full-body fall arrest harness has been designed to be used only as a safety device for hunting from elevated treestands and ladders. Any other use is prohibited. DO NOT use this, or any other Muddy® product(s) to climb utility poles, telephone poles, structural columns or any other man-made structures. Never use this or any other product(s) around power generation (e.g., transformers, generators, substations, etc.) and/or power transmission equipment. Never use a treestand on a dead, leaning, diseased or loose barked tree. NEVER USE A TREE BRANCH, OR ANY PORTION OF A TREE, TO SUPPORT ANY PORTION OF YOUR WEIGHT OR AS A HAND HOLD. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! NEVER hunt out of a treestand at heights at which you are not completely comfortable. Depending upon the tree and hunting conditions, choose the minimum height that allows for safe, effective hunting. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

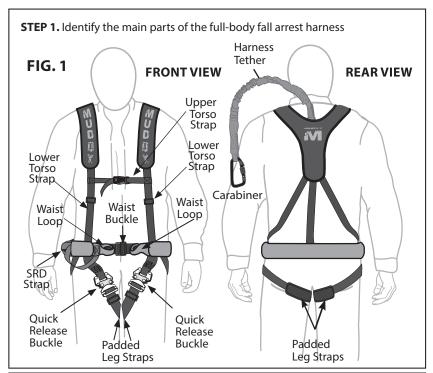
WARNING! Always wear the appropriate foot wear when using a treestand. A good non-slip safety boot is important for your safety. Be especially careful that boot laces do not get hooked on the tree stand or climbing aids (tuck shoelaces into boots). Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

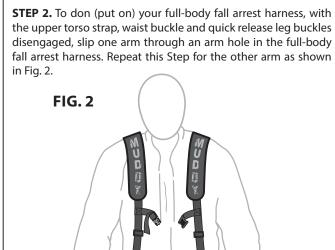
READ THIS MANUAL IN ITS ENTIRETY PRIOR TO USING THIS PRODUCT.

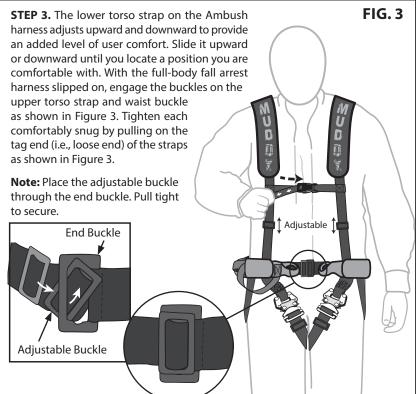
THE SAFEGUARD HARNESS INSTRUCTIONS

WARNING! Before using this full-body fall arrest harness in the field, it is important to become familiar with the setup and use at ground-level to ensure a proper assembly in the field. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! You must store your full-body fall arrest harness out of direct sunlight and out of any other harsh environmental condition(s) that may adversely affect its performance. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!





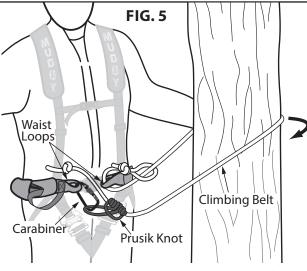




CLIMBING BELT USAGE

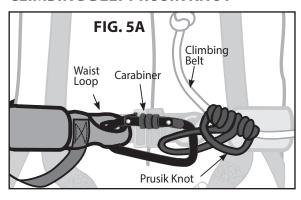
NOTE: Use your climbing belt when installing or removing hang-on or lock-on style treestands and their climbing aids (e.g., stick ladders, sectional ladders, steps, etc.) as directed by the Instruction Manual provided with the hang-on or lock-on style treestands and their climbing aids (e.g., stick ladders, sectional ladders, steps, etc.). It is important to remember to stay connected to the tree trunk with your climbing belt until you have safely secured your harness tether and tree belt to the tree trunk. Once you have secured your tree belt and harness tether and adjusted their length, only then can you safely disconnect your climbing belt and step down onto the standing platform portion of your treestand.

STEP 5. If necessary to use a climbing belt for the field installation of your treestand. feed the loop end of climbing belt through one of the waist loops. Then feed opposite end through the loop end pulling tight. Wrap the free end around the tree securing the prusik knot to the to opposite waist loop using carabiner (see FIG 8 to engage and lock carabiner). Adjust prusik knot to a comfortable climbing distance from the tree (see FIG. 5 and 5A).



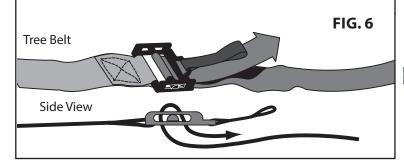
WARNING! You must close and engage the carabiner locking mechanism as outlined in these instructions and FIG 8. Failure to lock the carabiner will result in an unsafe condition. Failure to follow these instructions will result in serious injury or death!

CLIMBING BELT PRUSIK KNOT

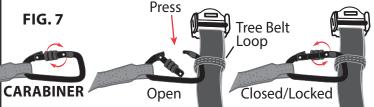


STEP 6. Once you have reached your desired height, carefully wrap the tree belt around the tree at a height that allows just enough slack for you to sit comfortably in your stand. Keeping the harness tether as short as possible limits the distance you will travel in case of a fall.

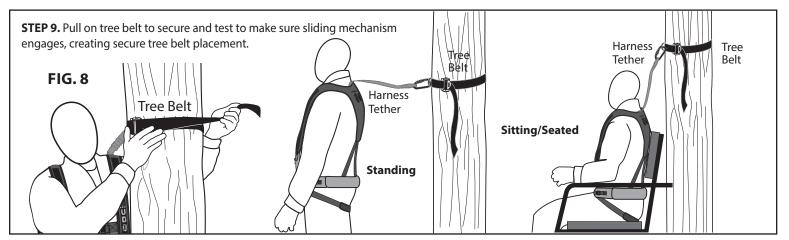
STEP 7. To secure the tree belt, insert the free end up through the slot in the buckle closest to opposite end of the tree belt, then cross over the sliding mechanism and back down through opposite slot.



STEP 8. Attach harness tether to the tree belt loop using the carabiner included. Check to make sure all connections are secure and carabiner gate and screw lock mechanisms are closed.



WARNING! You must close and engage the carabiner locking mechanism as outlined in these instructions. Failure to lock the carabiner will result in an unsafe condition. Failure to follow these instructions will result in serious injury or death!

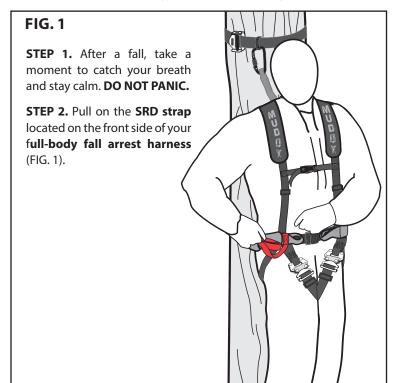


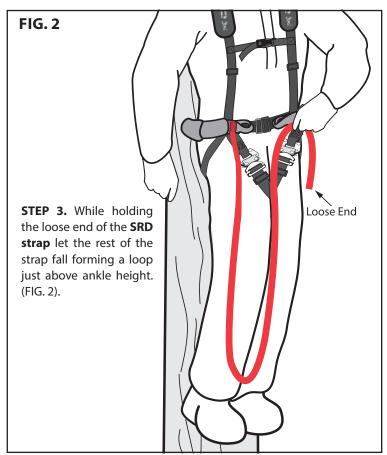
STEPS TO FOLLOW IF A FALL WAS TO OCCUR

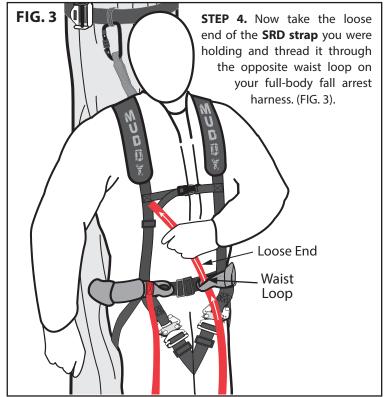
Although no one plans to fall from their treestand, falls can and do occur without warning. It is important to become familiar with the guidelines below and practice your recovery plan on ground-level. Failure to read, understand, and follow these Steps may result in serious injury or death!

WARNING! There is time to make a correct decision on what action to take if a fall occurs while wearing a full-body fall arrest harness. It is important **NOT TO PANIC!** Remain calm and implement your practiced rescue, relief and recovery plan. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

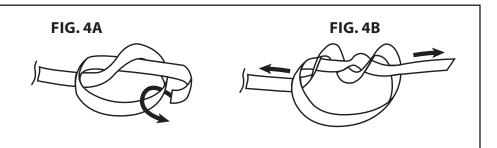
WARNING! A suspension relief device must be on your person and readily accessible while using a full-body fall arrest harness. These devices will allow you to relieve the load on the lower extremities if suspended in a full-body fall arrest harness and help maintain circulation in the legs and mitigate suspension trauma (blood pooling) or allow descent to the ground. Follow all instructions below regarding the provided SRD (Suspension Relief Device) and NEVER remove it from your full-body fall arrest harness. Failure to follow full-body fall arrest harness instructions could result in not being able to return to the stand and being suspended in a full-body fall arrest harness after a fall. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!







STEP 5. Fasten the loose end (non-loop end) of the **SRD strap** by tying a double-overhand knot (FIG. 4A & 4B).

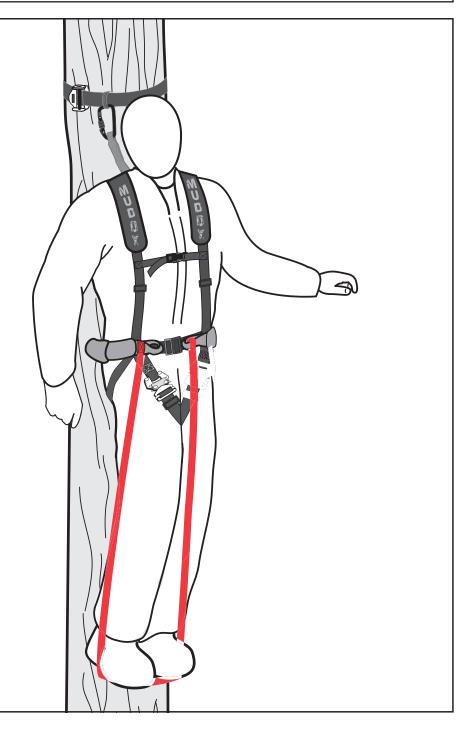


STEP 6. Adjust the **SRD strap** so that you are able to step into the loop and then stand up (even slightly) to relieve the pressure on your lower extremities (FIG. 5). The loop size can be adjusted by untieing the **SRD strap** loose end (non-loop end), adjusting the length, then retie the loose end (non-loop end) again (see **STEP 5**).

STEP 7. If you are able to reach your treestand, ladder or climbing system, use it to get back into your secured treestand and then carefully climb down to ground-level. If you are not able to reach your stand, remain calm and continue to stand in the **SRD loop** until help arrives (FIG. 5).

STEP 8. Use your **personal locating device** or **cell phone** to call for help.

NOTE: Several optional products/systems are available that offer self-recovery or self extraction from a fall when suspended in a full-body fall arrest harness. Some systems automatically descend the user while others allow user control. One of these products/systems can be considered for use as an additional safety precaution against prolonged suspension and suspension trauma. Be sure to follow the manufacturers' directions on the safe use of these products/systems.



CLIMBING TREESTAND USAGE

You must wear your Muddy® full-body fall arrest harness at all times when using a climbing stand. This includes staying connected to the tree at all times while ascending or descending the tree. When using your Muddy® full-body fall arrest harness with a climbing stand you must remember to move the tree belt up and down the tree each time you ascend or descend the tree. To do this, simply loosen the tree belt and slide it either upward or downward (as appropriate for the direction you are climbing). Remember, keep the slack in the harness tether to a minimum as you ascend or descend.

WARNING! Installing your Muddy® full-body fall arrest harness tether and tree belt in a manner other than outlined here puts you at risk of bodily harm. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death!

