

**Allegan County Sheriff's Office**  
**Sheriff's Beat**  
**Safety Tips for Deer Hunters**

November 3, 2014

Allegan County is a popular destination for deer hunters who will be taking to the farm fields and State Forrest Land of Allegan County with hopes of a successful 2014 Firearm Deer season. Deputies with the Allegan County Sheriff's Office would like to wish you luck in the field and to remind Allegan County residents and visitors of a few important safety rules before you head out.

- Your hunting license and the identification that you used to purchase it (driver's license, State ID car, or DNR sport card) must be carried with you at all times while hunting.
- All hunters must wear "hunter Orange" (hat, cap, vest, jacket, or rain gear that is visible from all sides and if camouflage it must be at least 50% orange).
- Safety zones include all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, house, cabin, barn, or other farm building. You may not hunt in this area or shoot at an animal without the written permission of the property owner.
- **Never** drink alcohol or use drugs before hunting.
- Know the legal hours for hunting

Deputies also suggest taking the following precautions to prevent and or reduce the possibility of injury this hunting season:

- Familiarize yourself with the area you will be hunting.
- Never assume you are alone in the woods.
- Be 100% sure of your target before taking a shot.
- If sitting against a rock or a tree, make sure it is wider than your shoulders, you are not as visible from behind, and cover is always safer than concealment.
- Never assume other hunters are acting responsibly
- Know how to safely handle your firearm and that it is clean and in proper working order.
- Tell a reliable person where you are hunting and when you can be expected to return.
- Have emergency equipment:
  - Knife
  - Cell phone
  - First aid kit
  - Flashlight
  - Rope
  - Extra batteries
  - Food and water
  - Compass or a GPS

Deputies urge all hunters to act responsibly this season and to review the Michigan Hunting laws before taking to the field. Please follow these tips and have a safe and successful hunting season.