

# Turkey Hunting Safety

by Marcus Kilburn



**H**unting is one of the safest outdoor activities, but only when participants abide by the rules of safe conduct. Below are some keys to safe spring turkey hunting. Study them before your next outing; pass them along to a friend.

**Target Identification.** Being 99.9 percent sure isn't good enough. Make absolutely sure you see a turkey with a beard before pulling the trigger.

**Calling.** Never use a gobble call on a spring hunt. It increases your odds of getting shot.

**Dress Defensively.** Wear full camofrom from the top of your head to the tip of your toes. Wearing partial camouflage may leave just enough exposed to look like parts of a turkey. Never wear white, blue, or black, including socks and undergarments, to hunt spring turkeys, as these colors are associated with wild turkeys and can contribute to hunter-mistaken-for-game accidents.

**Calling Position.** Choose a position from which you can see well without tree limbs or branches obstructing your view. If possible, sit at the base of a tree with a trunk wider than your body to protect your back.

### ***Signaling an Approaching Hunter.***

Never wave, whistle or make turkey calls to alert another hunter to your presence. In a clear voice, without shouting, call out to the oncoming hunter.

### ***Using a Decoy.***

When using a decoy, always place it so you are out of the direct line of fire should another hunter mistake it for legal game. When moving through the woods, totally conceal your decoy with

camouflage or fluorescent orange, so it won't be mistaken for a live turkey.

### ***Hunting Strategy.***

Never stalk a wild turkey. The less you move, the more safe and effective you will be.

### ***Bringing Home the Bacon.***

Once you've killed a bird, wrap a fluorescent orange vest or band around its body with wings folded in before moving. Leave the woods via the most open route possible.



## **Arkansas Game & Fish Commission**

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