SAFETY ZONE Awareness: Protecting Your Hunting Privilege

New Jersey hunters enjoy many types of hunting, numerous days afield and generous bag limits. But development and other human encroachment on the forests and fields of the Garden State has changed wildlife habitat and huntable land, such that SAFETY ZONE awareness is even more critical for modern hunters.

What is a SAFETY ZONE?

- The SAFETY ZONE is the area within 450 feet of a building or school playground, even if not occupied.
- The SAFETY ZONE is the place where you, the hunter, cannot carry a loaded firearm or nocked arrow unless you have written permission in hand.
- The SAFETY ZONE was established by legislation in 1946 as an area to place some physical distance, a buffer, between hunters and homeowners.
- The SAFETY ZONE could be land where there is suitable wildlife habitat for adaptable species, like the white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit and Canada goose.
- The SAFETY ZONE is not a magic shield which can stop a misdirected bullet from entering the area around a home.

What can you do to heighten your SAFETY ZONE awareness?

1. Post SAFETY ZONE signs.
2. Talk with landowners.
3. Hunt SMART and remind your hunting partners to Hunt SMART.
4. Know the law.

Remember, failure to hunt safely and responsibly is inexcusable. You must always be a responsible hunter, aware of your surroundings, the target and what may lie beyond the target. The principles of hunter education do not disappear at the completion of a course, but are called into practice every time you hunt.

Take special care hunting on “high visibility” property, habitat where our adaptable wildlife species—especially white-tailed deer—are now flourishing. Here, hunter conduct will be watched closely; the image we portray can have a great impact on the tolerance for our sport. So hunting these special areas carries added responsibility for you, as a hunter, to exercise restraint and make superior judgment decisions.


Cape May NWR
24 Kimbles Beach Road, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
(609) 463-0994; fw5rw_cpmnwr@fws.gov
- Deer—See “Special Area Hunting Season Information”
  No refuge permit is required. Special hunting conditions apply.

Great Swamp NWR
152 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920-9615
(973) 425-1222; fw5rw_gsnwr@fws.gov
- Deer—See “Special Area Hunting Season Information”
  In addition to required state licenses and permits, hunters must obtain a Refuge permit. There is a $22 fee for a Refuge Permit. Special hunting conditions apply.

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR
P.O. Box 72, Great Creek Road, Oceanville, New Jersey 08231-0072
(609) 652-1665; fw5rw_fbrnwr@fws.gov
- Deer—See “Special Area Hunting Season Information”
- Waterfowl • Special Snow Goose Season
  No specific Refuge permit is required. Hunters wanting to participate in the snow goose hunt must have a reservation. Special hunting conditions apply. Information can be obtained through the mail, at dispensers, or at the Refuge.

Supawna Meadows NWR
197 Lighthouse Road, Pennsville, New Jersey 08070
(856) 935-1487; fw5rw_spmmnwr@fws.gov
- Deer—See “Special Area Hunting Season Information”
- Waterfowl • September Canada Goose
  In addition to required state licenses and permits, deer hunters must obtain a Refuge permit. There is a $20 fee for this permit. Special hunting conditions apply.

Wallkill River NWR
1547 County Route 565, Sussex, New Jersey 07461-4013
(973) 702-7266; fw5rw_wrnwr@fws.gov • http://wallkillriver.fws.gov
- Deer—See “Special Area Hunting Season Information”
- Waterfowl • Special Winter Canada Goose
- Spring Turkey (Zone 5)
  In addition to required state licenses and permits, hunters must obtain a Refuge permit. There is a $10 fee for a Refuge Permit except youths are free. Special hunting conditions apply.

Continue the Tradition

Become a Hunter Education Instructor with the Division's new Home Study Program.

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Call 856-629-0552
leave your name and address to receive an application.
Or visit our website:
www.njfishandwildlife.com
Public Deer Hunting Land in New Jersey

New Jersey has more than 750,000 acres of public land available to the deer hunter. This list is arranged by deer management zone for public land open to deer hunting. Generally, only areas with 100 acres or more of upland habitat are listed. State parks and forests that allow hunting may have some sections which are closed to hunting. Some areas allow deer hunting only during certain seasons, require access fees or have other special regulations. Refer to the section entitled “Special Area Hunting Season Information” or contact the appropriate authority for additional information. See, also, page 71 for hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges in New Jersey.

Remember: Hunters must have permission to hunt agricultural land even if the land is not posted. Hunters should obtain permission before hunting any private property. Hunters are advised not to purchase a deer permit for a zone in which they have no place to hunt.

Zone Public Land Open to Hunting

1 Flatsbrook-Roy WMA
    2 Hainesville WMA
    3 Stokes State Forest
    4 Walpack WMA
    5 Worthington State Forest
    6 Bear Swamp WMA
    7 Township of Berkeley State Park
    8 Haddonfield WMA
    9 Salem River WMA

2 Kittatinny Valley State Park
    3 Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (see “Special Areas”)
    4 Great Egg Harbor River WMA
    5 Turkey Swamp WMA
    6 Colliers Mills WMA
    7 Manchester WMA
    8 Whiting WMA
    9 Wanaque WMA
    10 Ringwood State Park
    11 Borough Park WMA
    12 Cherry Valley WMA
    13 Musconetcong River WMA
    14 Great Swamps National Wildlife Refuge (see “Special Area Hunting Season Information”)
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Deer shot on a preserve are not eligible for Boone & Crockett, Pope & Young or New Jersey’s Outstanding Deer programs.
A HUNTER’S RESPONSIBILITIES

• When hunting on public lands, responsible hunters show the same respect for other users and their possessions as they show for land owners on private land.

• Responsible hunters show consideration for their companions and avoid doing anything that will interfere with another’s hunt.

• There are certain do’s and don’ts that all hunters must consider with respect to their manners in the field. Remember, in most cases, courtesy and sportsmanship are related to safety.

• All sports are played with established rules, procedures and referees. Hunting also has established rules for good conduct and sportsmanship; however, there are few referees. Hunters have the responsibility for self-enforcement.

• “A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his acts, they are dictated by his own conscience, rather than a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact.”

—Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac

• “It remains, and always will, the vital responsibility of every hunter to become proficient in the use of the chosen hunting tools, and to employ the highest ethical standards in the selection of shots taken.”

—Dave Samuel
Evan F. Nappen, Esq., “the gun law guru,” is an attorney dedicated to defending constitutional liberties. His extensive technical knowledge of guns, knives, weapons and an in-depth comprehension of NJ law allows him to advise honest citizens of their rights, how to save their possessions and stay out of jail.

Mr. Nappen’s website at www.evannappen.com features daily gun news with new headlines and article links continuously updated. From his office in Eatontown, NJ, he provides legal assistance to gun owners from Sussex to Cape May. In addition to being a member of the NJ and PA Bar, Mr. Nappen is admitted to the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Nappen is a well-known author for his books on New Jersey Gun, Knife and Weapon Law. His current book, Nappen II: New Jersey Gun, Knife and Weapon Law, is available at most gun stores (for a dealer listing—check the website). This book explains over 150 topics in an easy-to-read question and answer format with www.evannappen.com. This book explains over 150 topics in an easy-to-read question and answer format with New Jersey Gun, Knife and Weapon Law, available at most gun stores. Mr. Nappen’s 15 years of experience handling firearm and weapon cases.

His recent articles have appeared in Blade magazine concerning knife law and in Long Knives 2002 and Sporting Knives 2003, published by Krause Publications. His first book, Nappen on New Jersey Gun Law, sold out the first printing of over 5,000 copies. Many honest citizens have contacted, confided to and thanked Mr. Nappen that the information helped to save them from what could have been a disaster in their lives and liberty.

The NJ Courts have declared: “When dealing with guns, the citizen acts at his peril.” Because of this, law-abiding gun, knife and weapon owners must know and exercise their rights. To protect oneself, Mr. Nappen has created a system in which your basic constitutional protections are summed up as three simple rules. These three rules are explained thoroughly in NAPPEN II. It’s a must read for any gun, knife or weapon owner in NJ.

Mr. Nappen is a Life Member of the National Rifle Association and is a certified instructor in Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun and Home Safety. An avid hunter and fisherman, he and his family have spent many weekends target shooting, boating, fishing and hunting. His oldest son, Ethan, earned his New Jersey Hunting License for both shotgun and bow at the age of 10. His 6-year-old son, Nathanael, loves to catch lunker bass and outfishes everybody in the family.

The Law Firm of Evan F. Nappen, Attorney at Law is a professional corporation, which is dedicated to helping their clients in all aspects of gun, knife and weapon law, including legal representation for any and all crimes in any and all courts. Professional services are also offered for issues concerning Fish and Game law, Domestic Violence, gun seizures and forfeitures, licenses and permits, NICS purchase denials and expungements (clear your record).

NEW JERSEY WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDE

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is proud to offer the New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide. The publication of the Guide is the culmination of a two year project coordinated by the Division’s Endangered and Nongame Species Program to establish a network of viewing sites throughout the state.

The Guide beautifully illustrates the rich natural treasures that few people realize exist in the state. Experience the amazing diversity of New Jersey’s wildlife and habitats at 87 of the state’s best Wildlife Viewing Areas. The 165 page Guide is full of color photos and illustrations and provides directions to each site and information on site facilities, best viewing seasons and which animals and habitats can be seen. Unique to the New Jersey Guide is the addition of Wildlife Diversity Tours. In four regions, expanded information is provided on five sites in each region that when experienced through a 2-3 day trip provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ecosystems and wildlife found in the region.

Order yours today by using the order form below.

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NEW JERSEY WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDE

The creation of the Wildlife Viewing Guide and the development of a Watchable Wildlife Program for New Jersey was made possible in part through grants from the EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and Department of Defense. Major funding has been provided through proceeds from the sale of ‘Conserve Wildlife’ license plates.
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