

Weekly Safety Topic

(October 2023)

Hunting Season

Local, State, and National forests are a refuge for wild animals of all kinds, which makes recreational activities like hunting and wildlife viewing possible. It is hunting season in most of our service areas, and it is important that our crews take extra precautions while working near these areas. Here are some useful tips to help keep our crews safe during hunting season:

- Know when hunting seasons are. State Natural Resource websites offer hunting season schedules.
- Wear bright clothing to make yourself more visible. Your safety vest or high-vis, reflective clothing should always be your outermost layer while performing field work.
- Make yourself known. If you do hear shooting, raise your voice, and let hunters know that you are in the vicinity.
- Make noise. Whistle, sing or carry on a conversation as you walk to alert hunters to your presence. Sound carries well across mountain basins, and hunters should be listening for any sounds of animal movement.
- Be courteous. Once a hunter is aware of your presence, don't make unnecessary noise to disturb wildlife. Avoid confrontations.
- Know your own comfort level. Just as with any situation in the field, if you feel your safety is at risk leave the area immediately.

