15 Field Card: Safety and Shooting

The rules you carry into every hunt, and the numbers you got at the range with your own gun or bow.

These six sections hold what Part 1 asks you to know before you load a gun or climb into a stand. Skip the ones for weapons you won't carry this season.

01 / THE FOUR RULES: TAB-K

CHAPTER 7

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
2. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
3. Be sure of your target and of what's in front of it and beyond it.
4. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you're ready to shoot.

Chamber and magazine empty before I cross a fence and before the gun goes in the truck.

02 / MY RIFLE OR SHOTGUN

CHAPTERS 8–10

Gun, and caliber or gauge: _____

The load I hunt with: _____

Zeroed at _____ yards, on (date): _____

- Chamber length stamped on the barrel: _____ in. No longer shell, and no other gauge in my pockets.

Choke: _____ · Pattern at _____ yards: _____ % in the 30-inch circle (goal: 55–60%)

03 / MY BOW

CHAPTER 11

Draw weight: _____ lb

State minimum for my game: _____ lb

Draw length: _____ in

Dominant eye: ☐ right ☐ left

Broadhead: ☐ fixed ☐ expandable (only at 50 lb or more)

Cutting width: _____ in

State minimum: _____ in

☐ Broadheads in a hard quiver that covers the blades

15 Field Card: Safety and Shooting

CONTINUED

04 / MY LIMITS

CHAPTER 12

Farthest distance where every shot in my test set hit an 8-inch paper plate.

Position	Gun (yards)	Bow (yards)
Prone or off a bipod	_____	n/a
Sitting, off shooting sticks	_____	_____
Kneeling	_____	_____
Standing	_____	_____
From my stand	_____	_____

05 / BEFORE I CLIMB

CHAPTER 13

Harness expiration date: _____

☐ No falls since I bought it

☐ Lifeline checked

☐ Relief strap on the harness

☐ Hung in it once at ground level

☐ Phone on my body

☐ Gun unloaded, arrows covered, crossbow cocked on the ground with no bolt before it goes up the haul line

- Clipped in from the moment my boots leave the ground until both are back on it.
- Tether snug above my head when I sit, rechecked every time I stand or sit back down.

06 / BEFORE I GO, AND IF THINGS GO WRONG

CHAPTER 14

☐ Hunt plan (Chapter 14 form) left with: _____

Their phone: _____ Deadline: _____

After the deadline they call 911 or the sheriff: _____

☐ Offline maps open in airplane mode

☐ Paper map

☐ Spare phone battery

☐ Survival kit in the pack

- Lost: S.T.O.P. (Stop, Think, Observe, Plan) well before dark, and usually stay put. If you have to move, follow a fence to a gate or a road. Three whistle blasts mean distress.
- Thunder: unload, lower your gear and climb down, then get into a solid building or a hard-topped vehicle with the windows up. Go back out 30 minutes after the last thunder.