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WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOTE: This column is being submitted by Sen. Scott Fitzgerald for your consideration to print.

Sen. Fitzgerald: Fall Hunters' Safety Tips

This week marked the beginning of fall deer hunting with the opening of archery and crossbow hunting in Wisconsin. As the 2015 season continues through fall, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a variety of resources available for seasoned and aspiring hunters alike to ensure that all of Wisconsin's sportsmen have safe and memorable hunts this fall.

For hunters born after 1973, a hunter safety course is the first step in participating in one of Wisconsin's finest outdoor traditions. These courses cost as little as \$10 and consist of ten hours or more of lessons on safe, responsible hunting practices and a hands-on instructional field day. To find a course near you, visit the DNR website for a full list of open classes; for additional convenience, the lesson portion of the course can also be completed online from a variety of providers. Veterans of the US. Armed Forces, Reserves and National Guard prequalify for a hunting license.

For all hunters, there are a number of tips that can help make this fall's hunting both safe and productive. Don't forget to check all gear prior to your trip, including firearms, clothing, and any other equipment to ensure that they are in proper working order and free from wear and tear. Blaze clothing should not be faded and outerwear should be adequate for weather conditions.

Once you begin your hunt, safe firearm handling is a must. Always act as though your firearm is loaded, pointing it away from yourself and any other hunters. Keep your finger away from the trigger until you are ready to shoot, and be certain of your target and its surroundings before taking a shot. These simple tips will help avoid accidents and make your hunt more successful.

Youth deer hunting opens October 10th through 11th and rifle deer season runs from November 21st through 29th. For additional season dates, safety tips, to sign up for your hunter safety course, and more, visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/>. Happy hunting!

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) represents the 13th Senate District, which covers portions of Dodge, Jefferson, Waukesha, Washington, Dane, and Columbia counties.

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