

ORANGE FACTS

The information below is intended to provide the facts about why the use of blaze orange for turkey hunting in Maine should remain voluntary

FACT: Only one turkey hunting related shooting incident in Maine has been reported to the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA). That incident occurred in the spring of 2002.

FACT: Nation-wide spring turkey hunting incident rates were 8.2 in the early 1990's to a low of less than 3 incidents per 100,000 participants today.

FACT: Nationwide there is NO ORANGE REQUIREMENT during spring turkey hunting season except for Pennsylvania. In most states, including Maine, shooting incident rates have been lower than in Pennsylvania.

FACT: Spring incident rates in Pennsylvania have changed very little since the introduction of mandatory use of blaze orange in 1992 while other states have seen a significant decline in incident rates without the use of orange.

FACT: Hunters must always assume full responsibility to clearly identify their target.

Even if all hunters complied with hunter orange regulations, there would still be many people in turkey hunting areas that don't wear it.

FACT: Hunter acceptance and compliance is a major consideration. Generally, turkey hunters resist using hunter orange clothing.

FACT: In 1991, The National Wild Turkey Federation organized a National Wild Turkey Hunting Safety Task Force. Since then, the Task Force has met in 1997 and 2005 and has featured specialists from a broad range of backgrounds including wildlife agency administrators and instructors, hunting/shooting industry experts, biologists, educators, wildlife law enforcement officers and NWTF volunteers and staff. A combination of public awareness, turkey hunting information, training and education strategies have been implemented since the first Task Force.

Spring Turkey Hunter incident rates have dropped from 8.1 per 100,000 participants in 1992 to a low of 2.95 per 100,000 incidents as of 2005. Considering the number of turkey hunters has increased by 60% during that time, the decrease is phenomenal.

FACT: Scientific field research shows that the use of blaze orange clothing reduces a hunter's chances of harvesting a turkey by a factor of two or three times.

FACT: Orange is too closely related to red in the color spectrum and can be mistaken for the red of a gobblers head.



Here is how Maine's Turkey Hunters can continue to Dress for Success:

- 1) Never wear bright colors, especially not red, white, blue or black because these are the colors of a wild turkey gobbler.
- 2) Wear dark undershirts and socks, and pants long enough to be tucked into boots.
- 3) Camouflage your gun
- 4) Keep your hands and head camouflaged when calling
- 5) Select a spot that is in open timber rather than thick brush: wearing camouflage clothing and eliminating movement is more critical to success than hiding in heavy cover.
- 6) When using a camouflage blind or netting, maintain a clear field of view.

