

State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources

Annual Hunting Incident Report
2011

Prepared by:

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Law Enforcement Section
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

The International Hunter Education Association's Definition of a Hunting Incident:

An occurrence or an event that results in the physical injury or death of a person or persons which involves the discharge or use of a hunting implement while engaged in hunting activity.”
“Hunting” is described as follows: To pursue, take, attempt to take, search for, stalk or lie in wait for any animal.

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
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57 year-old Male	Yes	Handgun	Self inflicted		Elk
Remarks:	While hunting elk the victim was preparing to sit down at the edge of clearing to watch for game. As he sat down in the chair his holster hit the arm of the chair and knocked his revolver loose. He tried to catch the gun as it fell, but it hit the ground and discharged. He received burns on his right hand and the bullet traveled through his right thigh striking the femoral artery.				
Possible Cause:	Insecure rest(holster), firearm fell/dropped.				
Location of Incident:	Uintah County				

18 year-old Male	Yes	Rifle	Self inflicted		Pronghorn
Remarks:	The victim was hunting pronghorn with friends. They spotted a group of pronghorn and the victim borrowed a friends rifle to look at the animals through the rifle scope. The victim was trying to open the action to unload the rifle. When he took the safety off the firearm discharged striking the victim in the right lower calf. The bullet traveled down through his leg and foot exiting through his heel.				
Possible Cause:	Careless handling of a firearm- failure to control the direction of the muzzle Unloading firearm, finger on trigger				
Location of Incident:	Uintah County				

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
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27 year-old Male	Yes	Shotgun	59 year-old Male	Unknown	Pheasant
Remarks:	The victim was hunting pheasants with five other hunters. When a pheasant flushed the victim was shot by another member of his group from about 40 yards away. The victim was hit by numerous shot pellets on the right side of his face, neck, shoulder, arm and torso. Fortunately, he was wearing glasses and carrying his firearm on his right shoulder which protected his head considerably from the force of the shot.				
Possible Cause:	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.				
Location of Incident:	Duchesne County				

9 year-old Male	No	Shotgun	39 year-old Male	Yes	Grouse
Remarks:	The victim was a non-hunter accompanying a group of grouse hunters. The shooter was swinging on a bird that flew between himself and the rest of the group. The victim was hit with two shot pellets in the left ear and neck from a distance of approximately 70 yards.				
Possible Cause:	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.				
Location of Incident:	Cache County				

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
16 year-old Male	Yes	.22 Rifle	Self inflicted		Rabbits
Remarks:	While rabbit hunting the victim was walking along without the safety engaged on his firearm. He stumbled and the firearm discharged striking him in the right lower leg.				
Possible Cause:	Careless handling of a firearm- failure to control the muzzle. Shooter stumbled and fell.				
Location of Incident:	Duchesne County				

46 year-old Male	Yes	Shotgun	Other- dog		Waterfowl
Remarks:	The victim was waterfowl hunting with family. After shooting some ducks that morning they were preparing to gather their decoys and use their boat to retrieve one bird with that had dropped a considerable distance out from their location. The victim set his loaded shotgun down in the decoy box on the boat. The victim walked around the boat and out in front of the firearm. The groups hunting dog jumped into the boat on top of the firearm causing it to discharge. The victim was struck with 27 shot pellets.				
Possible Cause:	Careless handling of a firearm- loaded firearm in a vehicle(boat). Trigger caught on object.				
Location of Incident:	Box Elder County				

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
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33 year-old Male	Yes	Shotgun	Unknown		Pheasant
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Remarks: Several hunters were in two small groups on opposite sides of a gully. A pheasant jumped up and flew between the two groups. There were multiple hunters in one group that shot at the pheasant. The victim was in the group on the opposite side and was hit in his legs with 9 shot pellets

Possible Cause: Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.

Location of Incident: Cache County

Unknown Male	Unknown	Muzzleloader	Self inflicted		Deer
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Remarks: The victim had stopped to glass an area for deer. While glassing, he rested the muzzle of his firearm on his foot and it unintentionally discharged while in that position.

Possible Cause: Careless handling of a firearm- failure to control the direction of the muzzle

Location of Incident: Kane County