



State of Utah  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife Resources



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Conservation Outreach Section

# Annual Hunting Incident Report

# 2016



**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.

## 2016 Hunting Incident Summary

### FATAL INCIDENTS

**0**

### NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

**5**

### BREAKDOWN

#### Shooter's Age

Under 12	2
12 to 15	0
16 to 21	2
22 to 30	0
31 to 40	0
41 and over	1
Unknown	0

#### Victim's Age

Under 12	1
12 to 15	0
16 to 21	2
22 to 30	0
31 to 40	1
41 and over	1
Unknown	0

**TOTAL 5**

**TOTAL 5**

#### Possible Cause of Incident (Primary)

Victim out of sight of shooter	1
Careless or reckless handling of firearm	3
Failure to check beyond target	1

#### Game Hunted

Elk	1
Deer	1
Upland	2
Rabbit	1

**TOTAL 5**

**TOTAL 5**

Two of the five incidents were self-inflicted

**NON- FATAL**

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
17 year-old Female	Yes	Muzzleloader	66 year-old Male	No	Mule Deer
<b>Remarks:</b> The shooter and the victim (his granddaughter) had just returned to their vehicle. The victim was sitting in the passenger seat. The shooter was attempting to unload his in-line muzzleloader by removing the primer when it accidentally discharged firing a .45 caliber bullet into the driver's seat. The bullet struck the frame of the seat and fragmented. The victim was struck in the left chest near her armpit. She was transported to the County Medical Center and then life-flighted to a Wasatch Front Hospital.					
<b>Possible Cause:</b> Careless or Reckless handling of a firearm/ Failure to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction Unloading firearm					
<b>Location of Incident:</b> Sevier County					

18year-old Male	Yes	.264 Rifle	Self-inflicted	Elk	
<b>Remarks:</b> The victim was a member of a three person hunting group. As they were traveling down the road they observed some elk. They stopped the truck and exited the vehicle. The two other hunters began looking at the elk with their binoculars and the victim retrieved the rifle from the back seat of the truck. The victim claimed he simply wanted to use the scope of the rifle to view the animals. As he exited the truck with the rifle he stumbled on the rough terrain and the rifle discharged hitting his right leg just below the knee. He was immediately transported to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado where his right leg was amputated.					
<b>Possible Cause:</b> Careless or Reckless handling of a firearm/ Failure to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction Loaded Firearm in a vehicle					
<b>Location of Incident:</b> Uintah County					
<b>NON- FATAL</b>					

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
10 year-old Male	No	.22 Lever Rifle	Self-inflicted		Rabbit
<b>Remarks:</b> The victim was hunting rabbits with his father. The victim saw a rabbit and became excited and attempted to manipulate the firearm, accidentally pulling the trigger while the muzzle was pointed at his right foot. The bullet passed through his big toe, breaking the bone and requiring surgery.					
<b>Possible Cause:</b> Careless or reckless handling of firearm/ Failure to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.					
<b>Location of Incident:</b> Uintah County					

71 year-old Male	No	Shotgun 20 GA	11 year-old Male	Yes	Chukar
<b>Remarks:</b> The shooter and his father were hunting chukars. The shooter fired at some birds going up a steep hill where there was not a proper backstop. The victim and his grandson were also hunting in the area- over the top of the hill. The victim was hit with two shot pellets- one in the wrist and one in the nose. The victim was approximately 100 yards away from the shooter.					
<b>Possible Cause:</b> Victim out of sight of shooter					
<b>Location of Incident:</b> Sevier County					

## NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S	HUNTER EDUCATION	FIREARM	SHOOTER'S	HUNTER EDUCATION	GAME

AGE & SEX	TRAINED	USED	AGE & SEX	TRAINED	HUNTED
40 year-old Male	Yes	Shotgun 20 GA	19 year-old Male	Yes	Pheasant
<b>Remarks:</b>	The shooter and his companions were hunting pheasants on private land. The shooter fired twice at a pheasant, missing both times, however there was a house beyond the target. The victim was outside but near his residence when the shots were fired. The siding on the house was damaged and the victim was hit with two pellets- one in the left cheek and one in the abdomen. The shooter stated he knew the house was in the background but that he couldn't see the victim.				
<b>Possible Cause:</b>	Failure to check beyond target Victim out of sight of shooter				
<b>Location of Incident:</b>	Box Elder County				