



State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources



Prepared by:
Hunter Education Program
Conservation Outreach Section

Annual Hunting Incident Report

2017



Federal Aid Project
funded by your purchase of
hunting equipment

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.

2017 Hunting Incident Summary

FATAL INCIDENTS

1

NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

6

BREAKDOWN

Shooter's Age

Under 12	0
12 to 15	1
16 to 21	0
22 to 30	1
31 to 40	1
41 and over	1
Unknown	3

TOTAL 7

Possible Cause of Incident (Primary)

Careless or reckless handling of firearm/archery equip.	3
Failure to identify target	1
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	2

TOTAL 7

Two of the seven incidents were self-inflicted

Victim's Age

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

TOTAL 7

Game Hunted

Elk	2
Waterfowl	1
Upland	2
Raccoon	1

TOTAL 7

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
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34 year-old Male	Yes-1996	Rifle .300 WM	38 year-old Male	Yes- 1993	Elk
Remarks: Three co-workers were hunting elk together and split up to move to opposite sides of a canyon. None of them were wearing any required hunter orange clothing items. They were in dense cover and the shooter mistook the movement of his hunting partner for an elk and fired his rifle at him across the small canyon. The victim was hit in the abdomen resulting in severe damage to his liver, colon and intestines.					
Possible Cause: Failure to Identify Target, Failure to wear required hunter orange clothing. *Multiple citations issued.					
Location of Incident: Iron County					

20 year-old Male	Yes- 2006	Rifle 30-30	12 year-old Male	Yes- 2012	Elk
Remarks: Two brothers were hunting elk together in the Henry's Fork area. They spotted an elk and both hunters raised their guns to shoot. The 12 year-old fired his rifle and struck his older brother in the upper thighs. The bullet passed through both legs, but fortunately missed any bones. The victim was transported by helicopter in stable condition to a Weber County hospital.					
Possible Cause: Careless or Reckless handling of a firearm/ Failure to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction					
Location of Incident: Summit 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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43 year-old Male	Yes- 1987	Shotgun 12 GA	41 year-old Male	Yes- 1987	Pheasant
Remarks: Two individuals in the same party were hunting pheasants together on private property. A bird flushed and the shooter swung out of his safe zone of fire attempting to shoot it. The victim was peppered with shot on his left side from a distance of about 35 yards. He was struck with 2 pellets on his head, 1 in his throat, 2 near his elbow and 3 in his thigh. The shooter in this incident was issued a citation for hunting without a valid license.					
Possible Cause: Victim covered by shooter swinging on game, Victim in line of fire, Failure to check beyond target					
Location of Incident: Duchesne County					

39 year-old Male	Yes- 1996	Shotgun	Unknown- youth		Pheasant
Remarks: The victim in this incident was a volunteer who was assisting new hunters on a youth pheasant hunt event on the Annabella WMA. He was hit in the face by three shotgun pellets fired by an undetermined youth participant. The pellets were later removed at the hospital.					
Possible Cause: Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
Location of Incident: Sevier County					

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
30 year-old Male	Yes - 2001	Rifle .22	Self-inflicted		Raccoon
Remarks: The individual had been hunting raccoons near his home with a Ruger 10/22 semi-auto rifle. He was walking with the loaded rifle slung across his back with the butt stock above his left shoulder and the barrel angled down to the right. He was also wearing a backpack. He reached back and grabbed the firearm by the barrel with his right hand and attempted to adjust it upward. The trigger caught on his backpack and the gun discharged. The bullet hit his right ring finger between the middle joint and the base. He drove himself to the hospital where he received surgery to treat his injury.					
Possible Cause: Careless or reckless handling of firearm/ failure to control the muzzle in a safe direction. Trigger caught on object.					
Location of Incident: Duchesne County					

Unknown Male	Unknown	Archery	Self-inflicted		Possibly Deer
Remarks: An individual was treated at the hospital on the opening morning of the archery deer hunt. They stitched up a laceration in his hand reportedly from a broadhead arrow point. We have conflicting information on this incident- he indicated to medical staff that he was hunting, but the information given to law enforcement in the follow-up investigation was that he was target practicing.					
Possible Cause: Careless handling of archery equipment					
Location of Incident: Uintah County					

FATAL

VICTIM'S
AGE & SEX

HUNTER EDUCATION
TRAINED

FIREARM
USED

SHOOTER'S
AGE & SEX

HUNTER EDUCATION
TRAINED

GAME
HUNTED

Unknown
Male

Unknown

Shotgun

Unknown

Unknown

Snow goose

Remarks:

A man involved in a firearm-related incident while hunting snow geese passed away as a result of his injuries. The investigation is still ongoing and we have no further details at this time.

Possible Cause:

Unknown

Location of Incident: Millard County