



State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources



Prepared by:
Hunter Education Program
Conservation Outreach Section

Annual Hunting Incident Report

2018



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.

2018 Hunting Incident Summary

FATAL INCIDENTS

0

NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

4

BREAKDOWN

Shooter's Age

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

TOTAL 4

Possible Cause of Incident (Primary)

Ricochet, Victim out of sight of shooter	1
Careless or reckless handling of firearm	1
Victim in line of fire, Failure to check beyond target	1
Defective ammunition	1

TOTAL 4

One of the four incidents was self-inflicted

Victim's Age

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

TOTAL 4

Game Hunted

Elk	1
Pheasant	1
Waterfowl	2

TOTAL 4

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
59 year-old Male	Yes	Shotgun 12 GA		No	Ducks
Remarks:	The individual was hunting ducks from a pit blind with friends on a private duck club property. He stood up to stretch -which caused their hunting dog to get excited and try to jump out of the blind. This resulted in his shotgun being knocked over and discharging, striking the hunter in the left forearm. The injury was rather substantial removing a 2 inch diameter chunk of skin and flesh. The man was treated and released from the hospital.				
Possible Cause:	Careless or Reckless handling of a firearm/ Firearm fell, insecure rest/ Trigger caught on object (possible)				
Location of Incident:	Box Elder County				

17 year-old Male	Yes Online w/field day	Shotgun 12 GA	Self-inflicted		Waterfowl
Remarks:	A member of a hunting group was injured on the youth waterfowl hunt at Salt Creek WMA when his shotgun "blew up" when he fired at a bird. When the shotgun was inspected, two shells were found lodged in the action and the loading port bevel had been forced down out of place. The young hunter had burns and small cuts on his right wrist and a small cut near his right eye.				
Possible Cause:	Defective Firearm Ammunition				
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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67 year-old Male	No	Rifle	Unknown		Elk
Remarks:	The man had been hunting elk with family members on the opening day of the hunt. Around mid-day, the other members of his party left the mountain with an elk they had harvested. The victim still had a valid permit and stayed behind on the mountain to hunt until they returned. He decided to lie down next to a large log and rest. While resting there, he was startled by a gunshot. He began to get up from his position and as he got to his knees he heard another shot and saw a bullet hit a rock near him. At the same time, he felt a pain in his neck. He reached up to feel his neck and realized he was bleeding. At that moment he started to yell for help- and then saw several head of elk within 20 yards of his position. He assumed that there were hunters shooting at the elk and they were unable to see him despite wearing hunter orange clothing. He received aid from the other hunters and was transported to the hospital in a private vehicle where he was treated and released. He had 3 metallic bullet fragments in his neck.				
Possible Cause:	Ricochet/ Victim out of sight of Shooter.				
Location of Incident:	Sanpete County				

44 year-old Male	Yes	Shotgun	Unknown		Pheasant
Remarks:	The victim was the father of two young boys who were participating in a youth pheasant hunting event. After a safety presentation, several groups of first time hunters were out attempting to harvest birds. Their group flushed a pheasant that flew low to the ground towards another hunting group about 40 yards away. Members of that party fired at the bird. The victim and his kids ducked when the other hunters fired. He was hit with one pellet in the forehead a few inches above his left eye. The pellet penetrated a stocking cap he was wearing and broke the skin causing minor bleeding and some bruising. The man did not notify anyone that he had been injured.				
Possible Cause:	Victim out of sight of shooter				
Location of Incident:	Box Elder County				