



State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources



Prepared by:
Hunter Education Program
Conservation Outreach Section

Annual Hunting Incident Report

2019



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.

2019 Hunting Incident Summary

FATAL INCIDENTS

0

NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

3

BREAKDOWN

Shooter's Age

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

TOTAL 3

Possible Cause of Incident (Primary)

Careless or reckless handling of firearm	3
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TOTAL 3

All three of the incidents were self-inflicted

Victim's Age

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

TOTAL 3

Game Hunted

Elk	1
Waterfowl	1
Rabbits	1

TOTAL 3

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
56 year-old Male	No/unknown	Shotgun 12 GA	Self-inflicted		Ducks
Remarks:	The individual was hunting ducks on public property. The hunter was removing his shotgun from his back. As he swung it around to the front of his body, the barrel caught on his foot. His finger was on the trigger, and the firearm safety was off. The contact with his foot caused him to pull the trigger and discharge the gun. The injury removed a portion of his middle toe and caused additional soft tissue damage. The man was transported to the hospital by his hunting partner. He was treated and then released. His injuries are considered permanent but not debilitating.				
Possible Cause:	Careless or Reckless handling of a firearm/ Muzzle Control, Failure to use the safety.				
Location of Incident:	Box Elder County				

20 year-old Male	Yes Online w/field day	.308 Rifle	Self-inflicted		Elk
Remarks:	An elk hunter was reported as missing on the opening weekend of the general season hunt. He was found by search and rescue personnel using a helicopter, and then transported to the hospital. He had a gunshot wound to his right foot. The hunter explained that he had been pursuing elk through thick brush. He slipped and fell backwards while going up a hill. His firearm safety was off and the gun discharged when he fell, hitting his foot. He administered first aid to his injury, built a fire to keep warm, and waited for help to arrive.				
Possible Cause:	Careless or Reckless handling of a firearm/ Muzzle Control, Failure to use the safety.				
Location of Incident:	Sevier County				

14 year-old
Male

Yes
Instructor-led traditional

.22 Rifle

Self-inflicted

Rabbits

Remarks:

The young man was recreating in the outdoors on a UTV with several friends. He had a .22 lever action rifle on the UTV that was loaded with the safety off. He stopped the vehicle when he saw a rabbit and got out to try and shoot it. As he did, the rifle fell from its rest and discharged, hitting him in the right leg. The bullet passed through the muscle tissue of his leg causing only minor injury. He initially tried to hide the wound from his parents, but was eventually taken to a medical facility where he was treated and released.

Possible Cause:

Careless or Reckless handling of a firearm/ Muzzle Control, Firearm fell- insecure rest, Loaded firearm in a vehicle, Failure to use the safety.

Location of Incident: Wayne County