

NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

1. **SHOOTER:** 13 year-old male **VICTIM:** 52 year-old male
 FIREARM: 20 gauge shotgun **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Grant **BLAZE ORANGE:** Unknown
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 9/1/01

NARRATIVE: The victim (father) and shooter (son) were dove hunting about 50 yards apart when the shooter fired at a dove which flew between them. The victim was struck by pellets to the chest, face, forehead arm and hand. The incident was not reported until several days after the shooting.

CAUSE: Victim covered by shooter while swinging on game

2. **SHOOTER:** 57 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-Inflicted
 FIREARM: .54 muzzleloader **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Yakima **BLAZE ORANGE:** No
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: No **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 9/15/01

NARRATIVE: The shooter was target shooting at the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area when his firearm exploded. Investigation revealed that the sabot was not properly seated on the powder charge, with roughly a one-inch gap between the projectile and the powder charge. In addition to burns on the face, the victim suffered shrapnel wounds as the burst muzzleloader embedded in the forearm and broke one bone, causing both bleeding and minor nerve damage.

CAUSE: Defective ammunition; careless handling in loading the muzzleloader

3. **SHOOTER:** Hunting dog **VICTIM:** 23 year-old male
 FIREARM: 12-gauge shotgun **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Douglas **BLAZE ORANGE:** No
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: No **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 10/06/01

NARRATIVE: The victim and a friend were goose hunting from a boat on the Columbia River. After shooting several geese, they began to retrieve them using the boat. After putting his shotgun on the deck of the boat, the victim leaned over the bow to pick up the geese. The shotgun discharged when the dog stepped on the trigger, discharging the gun into the victim's lower right leg, just 12 inches from the muzzle. Investigation revealed the safety functioned properly.

- CAUSE:** Careless handling; trigger stepped on by dog
4. **SHOOTER:** 17 year-old male **VICTIMS:** 13 year-old male
FIREARM: 12-gauge shotgun **TYPE:** Non-fatal
COUNTY: Grant **BLAZE ORANGE:** Yes
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 10/10/01

NARRATIVE: The victim (younger brother) and shooter (older brother) were hunting upland birds with their father and another friend. The father served as a blocker, preventing the birds from escaping, while the older brother served as a driver, hunting a brushy creek below the other three hunters. A quail flushed and the shooter fired, wounding his brother who was obscured by brush although only 18 yards away.

CAUSE: Victim in line of fire; victim out of sight of shooter

5. **SHOOTER:** 17 year-old male **VICTIM:** 18 year-old male
FIREARM: .30-30 rifle **TYPE:** Non-Fatal
COUNTY: Klickitat **BLAZE ORANGE:** Yes
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 10/13/01

NARRATIVE: The victim and shooter were driving down the road with a third person when they saw two bucks inside a gated area. They hazed the deer from the gated area and the victim pursued the deer into the brush to flush them. The shooter remained on the road and he saw movement about 30 yards away in the brush. Thinking it was a buck scraping the ground, the shooter fired, striking the victim in the back and leg.

CAUSE: Victim mistaken for game

6. **SHOOTER:** 41 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-inflicted
FIREARM: .270 rifle **TYPE:** Non-Fatal
COUNTY: Pend Oreille **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 10/14/01

NARRATIVE: The victim was driving his vehicle after hunting when he saw several deer. He stopped the truck, exited and loaded his rifle. After determining all the deer were does, he re-entered the vehicle with a loaded gun. The rifle muzzle was pointing directly at his calf, so he reached to open the bolt when the gun discharged into his right thigh. Investigation revealed that the safety functioned properly.

CAUSE: Loaded gun in a motor vehicle

7. **SHOOTER:** 23 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-inflicted
FIREARM: .270 rifle **TYPE:** Non-Fatal
COUNTY: Klickitat **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Unknown **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 10/14/01

NARRATIVE: While deer hunting alone on rough terrain, the shooter slipped on rocks, lost control of his rifle and the gun discharged, striking him in the upper left arm. Due to the injuries sustained, the investigating officer was unable to interview the shooter at the scene. The shooter could not be contacted for further investigation.

CAUSE: Careless handling; shooter stumbled and fell

8. **SHOOTER:** 54 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-Inflicted
FIREARM: .22 Derringer **TYPE:** Non-Fatal
COUNTY: Yakima **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Unknown **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 10/28/01

NARRATIVE: The shooter was grouse hunting with a .22 pistol when he saw a grouse and stepped out of his vehicle. While using his left hand for a pistol rest, the shooter fired at the grouse and accidentally struck his left hand between the thumb and finger.

CAUSE: Careless handling

9. **SHOOTER:** 34 year-old male **VICTIM:** 20 year-old male
FIREARM: .30-06 rifle **TYPE:** Non-Fatal
COUNTY: Grays Harbor **BLAZE ORANGE:** No
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 10/24/01

NARRATIVE: The shooter was deer and bear hunting on a gated road. As he was returning to his vehicle he heard noise coming from the brush. The shooter thought the noise was either a large buck rubbing its antlers or a bear stripping and eating bark from a tree. As he crawled to within 40 yards of the noise, he could also

see trees moving. The shooter convinced himself that the dark form he saw was a bear, and he fired. Upon hearing screams, the shooter raced back to his car. After reading in the local newspaper that an unknown shooter had shot a brush picker, the victim contacted investigating officers the next day and explained the shooting incident from his perspective.

CAUSE: Victim mistaken for game;

10. **SHOOTER:** Unknown **VICTIM:** 42 year-old male
FIREARM: Unknown shotgun **TYPE:** Non-Fatal
COUNTY: Mason **BLAZE ORANGE:** Yes
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Unknown **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 11/22/01

NARRATIVE: The victim was pheasant hunting with his brother on a public release site. As soon as legal shooting hours began, the pair noticed two other hunters also hunting in their immediate vicinity. As a bird flushed and flew towards the victim, shots rang out. The victim was struck by two separate shots, striking him in the face and hands. Although the investigation was inconclusive, one of the hunters in the other hunting party agreed to “do what a sportsman should do” and paid for both medical expenses and lost work time.

CAUSE: Victim covered by shooter while swinging on game

FATAL INCIDENTS

11. **SHOOTER:** 26 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-inflicted
FIREARM: 12-gauge shotgun **TYPE:** Fatal
COUNTY: Grant **BLAZE ORANGE:** No
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 10/16/02

NARRATIVE: The victim and two hunting partners had been waterfowl hunting and the victim left the hunting blind and began collecting decoys. The hunting partners in the blind heard a shot, and they found the victim floating face down next to the boat. CPR failed to revive the victim. Investigators concluded that the victim was standing in 2-3 feet of water, after pulling the boat off shore, and attempted to put the shotgun into the boat when it discharged. The discharge struck the victim in the right ear.

CAUSE: Careless handling; loaded firearm in boat

HUNTING ACCIDENT DATA SUMMARY

July 1, 2001 — June 30, 2002

	<u>Fatal Accidents</u>	<u>Non-Fatal Accidents</u>	<u>Total Accidents</u>
Eastern Washington	1	8	9
Western Washington	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	1	10	11

SHOOTER STATUS, TYPE OF FIREARM, NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS

<u>Shooter Status</u>	<u>Number of Accidents</u>	<u>Firearm Type</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Non-Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Self-inflicted	6	Shotgun	1	4	5
Shot by someone in same party	3	Rifle	0	4	4
Shot by someone outside party	2	Handgun	0	1	1
Livestock	<u>0</u>	Muzzleloader	0	1	1
Total	11	Archery	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
			1	10	11

SPECIES BEING PURSUED AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number Fatal Accidents</u>	<u>Number Non-Fatal Accidents</u>	<u>Total Accidents</u>
Upland birds/grouse	0	4	4
Deer/elk	0	3	3
Waterfowl	1	1	2
Target shooting	0	1	1
Bear	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	1	10	11

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