

NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

1. **SHOOTER:** 41 year-old male **VICTIM:** 48 year-old male
 FIREARM: 12 gauge shotgun **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Skagit **BLAZE ORANGE:** No
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: No **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 1/5/02

NARRATIVE: The victim and two friends were waterfowl hunting side-by-side when a pair of ducks flew towards the hunters. The shooter reported that his gun accidentally discharged—striking the victim in the thumb--just as he stood to swing on the birds. A crime laboratory analysis of the firearm reported it to be in good mechanical condition, with no malfunctions.

CAUSE: Victim covered by shooter while swinging on game

2. **SHOOTER:** 18 year-old male **VICTIM:** 15 year-old male
 FIREARM: .22 LR Rifle **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Lincoln **BLAZE ORANGE:** No
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 8/1/02

NARRATIVE: The shooter and victim (cousin) decided to shoot starlings from a tree fort behind the victim's residence. The victim climbed into the tree fort while the shooter remained on the ground, where he tried to figure out the safety while unloading the firearm. The rifle discharged, striking the victim (above in the tree fort) in the buttock.

CAUSE: Careless handling

3. **SHOOTER:** 48 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-Inflicted
 FIREARM: .22 pistol **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Stevens **BLAZE ORANGE:** No
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: No **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 9/28/02

NARRATIVE: The shooter and a friend were driving on a road and grouse hunting when the shooter saw a grouse, stopped and exited the vehicle. After shooting at the grouse several times, the shooter returned to the vehicle, removed the magazine and tossed the pistol into a bag. The gun discharged as soon as the shooter tossed the bag into the vehicle, striking the shooter in the thigh. Investigation revealed the safety functioned properly. Both the shooter and the passenger had been drinking beer.

CAUSE: Careless handling; loaded gun in motor driven vehicle

4. **SHOOTER:** 39 year-old male **VICTIMS:** 13 year-old male

FIREARM: 12-gauge shotgun
COUNTY: Whitman
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes

TYPE: Non-fatal
BLAZE ORANGE: Yes
DATE OF ACCIDENT: 10/5/02

NARRATIVE:

The victim (nephew) and shooter (uncle) were pheasant hunting with other family members in an area with thick brush. The group split up and planned to meet in another location. A bird flushed and the shooter fired, striking the victim in the head, neck, face and leg. The victim was no more than 65 yards from the shooter (according to one member of the hunting party).

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

5. **SHOOTER:** 40 year-old male
FIREARM: 12-gauge shotgun
COUNTY: Whitman
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes

VICTIM: 42 year-old male
TYPE: Non-Fatal
BLAZE ORANGE: N/A
DATE OF ACCIDENT: 10/6/02

NARRATIVE:

The victim was sitting in a vehicle while the shooter (brother) was pheasant hunting about 25 yards away. A pheasant flushed between the shooter and the vehicle and the shooter fired, striking his brother in the face and neck

CAUSE: Victim covered by shooter swinging on game

6. **SHOOTER:** 37 year-old male
FIREARM: 7mm magnum rifle
COUNTY: Cowlitz
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes

VICTIM: Self-inflicted
TYPE: Non-Fatal
BLAZE ORANGE: N/A
DATE OF ACCIDENT: 10/12/02

NARRATIVE:

The victim was driving his vehicle and hunting with an unfamiliar rifle when he saw a grouse. He stopped the truck, exited and loaded the semi-automatic rifle. After returning to the vehicle, he re-entered the vehicle and forgot that the semi-automatic loaded a fresh round upon firing. While placing the rifle butt-first into the vehicle, the gun discharged into his thigh.

CAUSE: Loaded gun in a motor vehicle; careless handling

7. **SHOOTER:** 32 year-old male
FIREARM: .223 rifle

VICTIM: Horse
TYPE: Fatal

COUNTY: Stevens
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes

BLAZE ORANGE: N/A
DATE OF ACCIDENT: 10/2/02

NARRATIVE:

While cougar hunting alone early in the morning, the shooter reported hearing a hissing sound, seeing a long, tubular tail, and concluding that he saw a cougar. The shooter fired one round, but was not certain he hit the cougar. Subsequent investigation revealed an area resident who filed a complaint about a horse shot with a small diameter bullet.

CAUSE: Horse mistaken for cougar

8. **SHOOTER:** 40 year-old male
FIREARM: 12-gauge shotgun
COUNTY: Grant
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes

VICTIM: 47 year-old male
TYPE: Non-Fatal
BLAZE ORANGE: No
DATE OF ACCIDENT: 10/6/02

NARRATIVE:

The shooter was waterfowl hunting in one of two groups that had blinds located 25 yards directly in front of each other. After a group of ducks landed in front of the blinds, one duck took flight and the shooter fired, striking the victim and a hunting dog each with seven pellets.

CAUSE: Victim covered by shooter swinging on game

9. **SHOOTER:** 14 year-old male
FIREARM: .270 rifle
COUNTY: Okanogan
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes

VICTIM: 44 year-old male
TYPE: Non-Fatal
BLAZE ORANGE: Yes
DATE OF ACCIDENT: 10/19/02

NARRATIVE:

The shooter (son) and victim (father) were deer hunting with only the son carrying a firearm. The father separated from his son so that he could enter the brush and push a deer towards the son, who remained in the open. The father told his son he would “drop to avoid being shot” if the deer ran between the pair. The father spotted a spike and told his son to shoot. The son actually saw the father’s orange vest through his telescopic sight, but he fired at the deer anyway. The father—50 yards away—received a grazing wound across the shoulder blades.

CAUSE: Victim in line of fire; victim covered by shooter swinging on game

10. **SHOOTER:** 16 year-old male
FIREARM: 12-gauge shotgun
COUNTY: Walla Walla

VICTIM: 16 year-old male
TYPE: Non-Fatal
BLAZE ORANGE: No

HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes

DATE OF ACCIDENT: 11/29/02

NARRATIVE:

The shooter (father) and victim (son) were deer hunting and rattling antlers in separate locations. Both father and son heard something between them, and both moved from their original locations to within 50 yards of each other. The father saw antlers and movement and fired, striking his son in the leg. The investigating officer noted how difficult it was to see into the brush, even at mid-day.

CAUSE: Victim mistaken for game

14. SHOOTER: 23 year-old male VICTIM: 49 year-old male
FIREARM: 12-gauge shotgun TYPE: Non-fatal
COUNTY: Okanogan BLAZE ORANGE: Yes
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes DATE OF ACCIDENT: 12/29/02

NARRATIVE:

The shooter (son) and victim (father) were quail hunting three abreast in tall sage. A quail flushed between the shooter and the middle hunter, but the shooter held his fire knowing that it was an unsafe shot. Unknown to the shooter, the father was lagging a bit behind the other two. When the shooter continued to swing on the bird and he fired, he struck his father—some 50 yards away—in the face, head and eye. Investigation revealed the shooter did not have a valid hunting license.

CAUSE: Victim covered by shooter swinging on game

Fatal AccidentsNon-Fatal AccidentsTotal Accidents

0

14

14

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	3	Shotgun	0	6	6
Shot by someone in same party	10	Rifle	0	6	6
Shot by someone outside party	0	Handgun	0	1	1
Livestock	<u>1</u>	Muzzleloader	0	1	1
Total	14	Archery	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
			0	14	14

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	5	5
Deer/elk	0	4	4
Waterfowl	0	3	3
Cougar	0	1	1
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	0	14	14

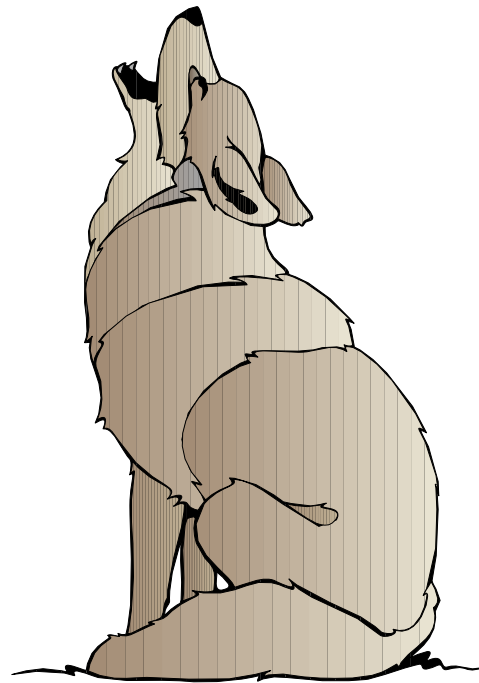
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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Washington

July 1, 2002 — June 30, 2003



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Hunting Accident Report
Hunter Education Division
Enforcement Program

**Hunting Incidents In Washington
1937 – 2003**

Years	Fatal Incidents	Non-Fatal Incidents	Livestock Incidents	Total Incidents	Self-Inflicted Fatalities
1937 - 1946	75	74	3	152	24
1947 - 1956	102	267	8	377	24
1957 - 1966	62	329	25	415	16
1967 - 1976	56	353	0	409	N/A
1977 - 1986	37	279	4	337	N/A
1987 - 1996	20	176	8	204	5
1997 - 2003	3	68	1	72	1
Total #	355	1,546	49	1,966	70

Hunting Fatalities By Decade
Department Of Fish And Wildlife
Enforcement Program
Hunter Education Division

