The grandfather was not hunting as he taught his two grandsons how to hunt quail. They were three abreast when a covey flushed in front of the shooter, about eight feet away on the grandfather’s left-hand side. The shooter—focusing on the quail in flight—fired and struck the grandfather with pellets in the face and body. The grandfather said he wouldn’t have reported the incident. The shooter’s hunting privileges were revoked.

The 10 year-old shooter was tagging along on a hunt with his father and two other relatives. One of the relatives forgot binoculars in the truck and asked the 10-year old to hold his rifle while he returned to the truck to get the binoculars. The 10 year-old apparently cocked the rifle and pulled the trigger while his middle finger rested on the muzzle.

The facts of this incident were suspicious to the investigating officer and this case is still open. In this—the second version offered by the shooter—he was grouse hunting and running with a .22 LR when he slipped and discharged the firearm into his left leg, just above the knee.

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**NON-FATAL INCIDENTS**

1. **SHOOTER:** 10 year-old male  
   **VICTIM:** 60 year-old male  
   **FIREARM:** 12 gauge shotgun  
   **TYPE:** Non-fatal  
   **COUNTY:** Yakima  
   **BLAZE ORANGE:** No  
   **HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes  
   **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 9/19/04

   **CAUSE:** Victim covered by shooter swinging on game

2. **SHOOTER:** 10 year-old male  
   **VICTIM:** Self-inflicted  
   **FIREARM:** .30-30 rifle  
   **TYPE:** Non-fatal  
   **COUNTY:** Okanogan  
   **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
   **HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** No  
   **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 10/12/04

   **CAUSE:** Careless handling

3. **SHOOTER:** 17 year-old male  
   **VICTIM:** Self-Inflicted  
   **FIREARM:** .22 LR rifle  
   **TYPE:** Non-fatal  
   **COUNTY:** Cowlitz  
   **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
   **HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes  
   **DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 10/22/04

   **CAUSE:** Careless handling
4. **SHOOTER:** 11 year-old male  
**VICTIMS:** Self-inflicted  
**FIREARM:** .30-30 rifle  
**TYPE:** Non-fatal  
**COUNTY:** Stevens  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes  
**DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 11/1/03  

**NARRATIVE:** A father and son were elk hunting and the father told his son to remain by the truck while the father skirted a hillside to try and push elk towards his son. The son left the truck and began hiking downhill in thick brush. He leaned his rifle against some brush while he continued working his way downhill. As the gun fell, the son grabbed the barrel, causing it to discharge into his forearm. The son spent a week in the hospital and underwent three surgeries to save his arm. The father was a convicted felon in possession of a firearm and charges were filed against him.  

(* This report did not appear in the 2004 edition of Hunting Incidents)

**CAUSE:** Careless handling

5. **SHOOTER:** 45 year-old male  
**VICTIM:** 43 year-old male  
**FIREARM:** 20-gauge shotgun  
**TYPE:** Non-Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Okanogan  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** Yes  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** No  
**DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 11/12/04  

**NARRATIVE:** The shooter and victim were quail hunting in a party of four. The victim was looking for downed quail in tall sagebrush when he was struck with pellets in the side of his head, neck forearm and hand. The shooter was reportedly about 70 yards away and could not see the victim because of the terrain. The victim and witnesses all refused to sign their WDFW statements.  

**CAUSE:** Victim covered by shooter swinging on game

6. **SHOOTER:** 6 year-old male  
**VICTIM:** Self-inflicted  
**FIREARM:** .410 shotgun  
**TYPE:** Non-Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Yakima  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Unknown  
**DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 10/22/04  

**NARRATIVE:** As the victim was getting out of his father’s truck, he dropped his shotgun, which struck the bumper and discharged into his right arm. The incident took place on the Yakima Nation Reservation and information about the incident was received from a third-party. No other details are available.  

**CAUSE:** Victim removing firearm from vehicle
7. **SHOOTER:** 46 year-old male  
**VICTIM:** 8 year-old male  
**FIREARM:** 12-gauge pump shotgun  
**TYPE:** Non-Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Spokane  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** Yes  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** No  
**DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 11/26/04  

The shooter was hunting pheasant alone without a hunting dog. He reported that several hunting dogs jumped up on him, causing his firearm to discharge accidentally. Investigating officers suspect that the shooter saw motion in the brush and fired, striking the hunting dog.

**CAUSE:** Victim covered by shooter swinging on game

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8. **SHOOTER:** 42 year-old male  
**VICTIM:** 43 year-old male  
**FIREARM:** Unknown shotgun  
**TYPE:** Non-Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Chelan  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** Yes  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** No  
**DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 1/2/05  

The shooter and victim were quail hunting about 50 yards apart on a steep hillside. Quail flushed and the shooter fired two shots, striking the victim with pellets to the face. The shooter reported that he could not see the victim because of the slope of the hill.

**CAUSE:** Victim covered by shooter swinging on game

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9. **SHOOTER:** 42 year-old male  
**VICTIM:** Hunting dog  
**FIREARM:** 12 gauge shotgun  
**TYPE:** Non-Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Skagit  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes  
**DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 11/3/04  

The shooter was hunting pheasant alone without a hunting dog. He reported that several hunting dogs jumped up on him, causing his firearm to discharge accidentally. Investigating officers suspect that the shooter saw motion in the brush and fired, striking the hunting dog.

**CAUSE:** Hunting dog mistaken for game animal

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10. **SHOOTER:** Unknown  
**VICTIM:** Elementary school student  
**FIREARM:** Unknown shotgun  
**TYPE:** Non-Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Yakima  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Unknown    DATE OF ACCIDENT:   12/19/03

NARRATIVE: This incident report developed from a newspaper clipping reporting a possible hunting incident. Neither shooter nor witnesses could be found. A student was on the school playground and reportedly heard one gunshot. Although the school checked the student’s reported injury, the #6 pellet in his scalp wasn’t discovered until three weeks later.

(* This report did not appear in the 2004 edition of Hunting Incidents)

CAUSE: Unknown

11 SHOOTER: 16 year-old male    VICTIM: Self-inflicted
FIREARM: .22 LR rifle    TYPE: Non-Fatal
COUNTY: Clark    BLAZE ORANGE: N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes    DATE OF ACCIDENT:  9/27/04

NARRATIVE: This incident report developed from a report in a hunter education class regarding a possible hunting incident. The victim was raccoon hunting with dogs late at night and fired at and struck a treed raccoon. As he approached the raccoon, the raccoon rose and began fighting with one of his dogs. The victim fired again, this time striking and killing one of his dogs. Distraught about his dog, the victim carelessly tossed the gun aside, causing it to discharge into his thigh.

CAUSE: Careless handling

12 SHOOTER: 22 year-old male    VICTIM: 10 year-old male
FIREARM: 12-gauge semi-auto    TYPE: Non-Fatal
COUNTY: Whitman    BLAZE ORANGE: YES
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes    DATE OF ACCIDENT:  1/15/05

NARRATIVE: The shooter was quail hunting with his father and younger brother when quail flushed and the shooter fired, striking his younger brother with pellets in the leg and arm. Although the father was also struck by pellets, they did not penetrate his heavier clothing.

CAUSE: Victim covered by shooter swinging on game

13 SHOOTER: 31 year-old male    VICTIM: 42 year-old male
FIREARM: Bow    TYPE: Non-Fatal
COUNTY: Lewis  BLAZE ORANGE: N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes  DATE OF ACCIDENT: 12/4/04

NARRATIVE: The shooter and victim were hunting elk during the late archery season in separate hunting parties. As he watched a group of elk moving at 50 yards, the victim was hit by a ricochet arrow released by a hunter approximately 100 yards away. The shooter administered first aid and helped stabilize the victim.

CAUSE: Ricochet; victim in line of fire

Information for these two hunting incidents was either unavailable or incomplete at the time this report was prepared for hunter education instructors.

The report will be updated as data becomes available to the hunter education division staff.

Fatal Incidents

16. SHOOTER: 40 year-old male  VICTIM: 25 year-old male
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIREARM: 16 ga. shotgun</th>
<th>TYPE: Fatal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY: King</td>
<td>BLAZE ORANGE: No</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes</td>
<td>DATE OF ACCIDENT: 12/24/04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NARRATIVE:** The shooter and his brother were waterfowl hunting and target shooting with only the shooter carrying a firearm. The shooter stepped into unexpectedly deep water, and was pulled out of the water by his brother. As he was being pulled out, the firearm hit a branch and discharged, striking the victim in the neck. The shooter insisted that the safety was on. Investigation revealed the firearm would not fire with the safety on.

**CAUSE:** Careless handling

17. **SHOOTER:** 38 year-old male  
**VICTIM:** 52 year-old male  
**FIREARM:** 12-gauge shotgun  
**TYPE:** Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Grant  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Unknown  
**DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 1/19/05

**NARRATIVE:** The shooter and victim were done goose hunting and were carrying gear out of the field. The shooter noticed his safety was off and tried to engage the safety when the gun discharged, striking the victim in the femoral artery. Investigation revealed the shooter did not possess a small game license, a federal waterfowl stamp, or a state waterfowl migratory bird endorsement. The shooter also had lead shot in his possession.

**CAUSE:** Careless handling

18. **SHOOTER:** 28 year-old male  
**VICTIM:** 64 year-old male  
**FIREARM:** 12-gauge shotgun  
**TYPE:** Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Stevens  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** No  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes  
**DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 11/05/04

**NARRATIVE:** The shooter, victim and a third hunter were in a deer unit open at the time only for youth and seniors. The shooter reportedly saw a coyote and fired one shot using 00 buck shotshells, striking and killing the victim. Three empty 00 buck shotshells were found at the scene. The county sheriff conducted the principal investigation and local fish and wildlife officers were unable to contact the shooter to clarify exactly what happened afield.

**CAUSE:** Careless handling

19. **SHOOTER:** Unknown  
**VICTIM:** 68 year-old male  
**FIREARM:** Muzzleloading rifle  
**TYPE:** Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Skamania  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** No
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Unknown   DATE OF ACCIDENT: 10/04/04

NARRATIVE: This hunting incident was still being investigated by the county sheriff and details are not available. The victim was killed by a muzzleloading rifle discharge.

CAUSE: Under investigation
Eastern Washington 2 8 10

Western Washington 2 4 14

(* Two reports did not appear in the 2004 edition of Hunting Incidents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shooter Status</th>
<th>Number of Incidents</th>
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<td>Shotgun</td>
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<td>Shot by someone in same party</td>
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<td>Rifle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shot by someone outside party</td>
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<td>Handgun</td>
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<th>Species</th>
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Office of External Programs
4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 130
Arlington, VA 22203
Preliminary Hunting Incident Report
Hunter Education Division
Enforcement Program

June 27, 2005