

## 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

**NARRATIVE:**     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.

**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

**NARRATIVE:**     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.

**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

**NARRATIVE:**     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.

**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





**COUNTY:** Lewis  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes

**BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
**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

14  
15

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

**FIREARM:** 16 ga. shotgun  
**COUNTY:** King  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes

**TYPE:** Fatal  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** No  
**DATE OF ACCIDENT:** 12/24/04

**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  
**FIREARM:** 12-gauge shotgun  
**COUNTY:** Grant  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Unknown

**VICTIM:** 52 year-old male  
**TYPE:** Fatal  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
**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  
**FIREARM:** 12-gauge shotgun  
**COUNTY:** Stevens  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes

**VICTIM:** 64 year-old male  
**TYPE:** Fatal  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** No  
**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  
**FIREARM:** Muzzleloading rifle  
**COUNTY:** Skamania

**VICTIM:** 68 year-old male  
**TYPE:** Fatal  
**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**

**HUNTING INCIDENT DATA SUMMARY**

\* July 1, 2004 — June 30, 2005

Fatal Accidents

Non-Fatal Accidents

Total Accidents



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

**SHOOTER STATUS, TYPE OF FIREARM, NUMBER OF INCIDENTS**

<u>Shooter Status</u>	<u>Number of Incidents</u>	<u>Firearm Type</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Non-Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Self-inflicted	4	Shotgun	3	7	10
Shot by someone in same party	8	Rifle	0	3	3
Shot by someone outside party	1	Handgun	0	0	0
Livestock	<u>1</u>	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Total	14	Archery	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
			4	10	14

**SPECIES BEING PURSUED AT TIME OF INCIDENT**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number Fatal Incidents</u>	<u>Number Non-Fatal Incidents</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
Upland birds/grouse	0	6	6
Deer/elk	1	2	3
Waterfowl	2	0	2
Coyote	1	0	1
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	4	10	14

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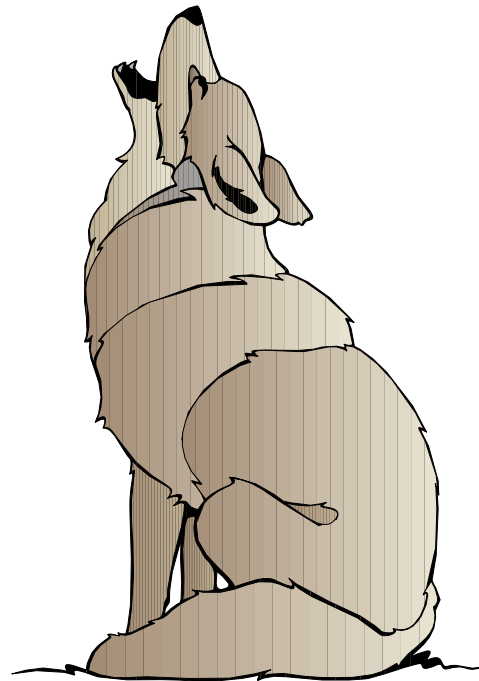
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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

# Washington

July 1, 2004 — June 30, 2005



*Washington  
Department of*  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**

Preliminary Hunting Incident Report  
Hunter Education Division  
Enforcement Program

June 27, 2005