



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Hunting Incidents Annual Report

July 1, 2010 — June 30, 2011



Hunter Education Division Enforcement Program

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HUNTING INCIDENT DATA SUMMARY

July 1, 2010 — June 30, 2011

	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Non-Fatal</u>
Eastern Washington	0	7
Western Washington	2	3
Total Incidents	2	10

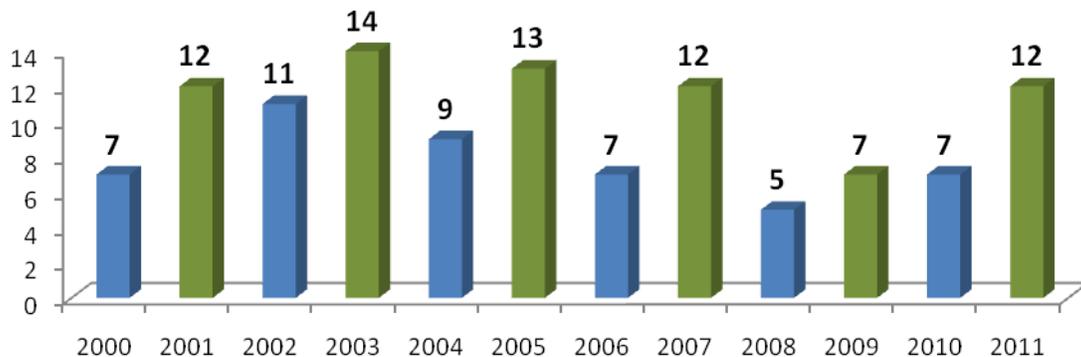
<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Non-Fatal</u>
Self-inflicted	0	5
Shot by person in same party	1	4
Shot by person outside of party	1	3

<u>Hunting Implement</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Non-Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Shotgun	0	5	5
Rifle	1	3	4
Handgun	0	0	0
Muzzleloader	0	1	1
Archery	1	1	2

SPECIES PURSUED AT TIME OF INCIDENT

<u>Species</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Non-Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bear	1	0	1
Deer/elk	1	5	6
Waterfowl	0	2	2
Turkey	0	1	1
Upland Birds	0	2	2

Total Number of Incidents by Year (2000 - 2011)



Fatal Incidents

1. SHOOTER: 31 year-old male VICTIM: 39 year-old male
TACKLE: Bow (weight unk) TYPE: Fatal
COUNTY: Cowlitz BLAZE ORANGE: N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes DATE OF INCIDENT: 9/10/10

NARRATIVE: The shooter was stalking an elk with a nocked arrow. The victim was walking in front of the shooter and abruptly stopped. The shooter did not see the victim stop and he continued walking forward and "rammed the arrow into the victim's torso.

CAUSE: Careless handling, victim in line of fire

2. SHOOTER: 29 year-old male VICTIM: 25 year-old male
FIREARM: .30-06 semi auto rifle TYPE: Fatal
COUNTY: Mason BLAZE ORANGE: No (N/A)
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes DATE OF INCIDENT: 09/29/10

NARRATIVE: The shooter was hunting bear, when he fired at what he believed was a bear. The shooter heard people "yell" which caused him to leave the area. The next day the shooter turned himself into the local Sherriff's Office after hearing that a person (brush picker) had been fatally shot.

CAUSE: Failure to identify target (victim mistaken for game)

Non-Fatal Incidents

1. SHOOTER: Unk/Under invest. VICTIM: 60 year-old male
TACKLE: Bow (weight unk) TYPE: Non-fatal
COUNTY: Wahkiakum BLAZE ORANGE: N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: UNK DATE OF INCIDENT: 09/07/10

NARRATIVE: The incident was still being investigated at the time this report was prepared. The victim was elk hunting and was in close proximity to a herd of elk (approx. 15 yards away). The victim was drawing his bow back to shoot an elk when he felt something "hit" him. The victim looked down and saw an arrow sticking out of his pelvic area. The victim at first thought he shot himself, but then realized that the arrow was not one of his own. Currently WDFW is still looking for the shooter.

CAUSE: Victim mistaken for game, shooter unaware of target backstop

2. SHOOTER: 40 year-old male VICTIM: 22 year-old male
FIREARM: .30-.30 Level Action TYPE: Non-fatal
COUNTY: Whatcom BLAZE ORANGE: Yes
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes DATE OF INCIDENT: 10/18/10

NARRATIVE: The shooter and victim had been hunting deer. They had returned to the pick-up truck and the victim was seated inside the cab. The shooter was attempting to unload the rifle from outside the driver side of the vehicle. The truck door was ajar and the rifle pointed into the vehicle. The rifle discharged with the bullet striking the passenger in the leg. Shooter was charged with Reckless Endangerment.

CAUSE: Careless Handling, Illegal Hunting Activity

3. SHOOTER: 26 year-old male VICTIM: Self
FIREARM: .308 Bolt Action TYPE: Non-fatal
COUNTY: Grays Harbor BLAZE ORANGE: Yes
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes DATE OF INCIDENT: 10/26/10

NARRATIVE: The shooter/victim had been hunting deer. The shooter/victim had seen a deer from the truck and exited the vehicle and loaded the firearm. After an unsuccessful stalk he returned to the vehicle and reentered forgetting to unload. The driver then began to drive down the road and the rifle discharged. The bullet struck the shooter/victim in the foot. Shooter/victim was charged with possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CAUSE: Careless Handling, Illegal transportation of a loaded firearm.

4. SHOOTER: 68 year-old male VICTIM: Self
FIREARM: 7MM Trigger Block TYPE: Non-fatal
COUNTY: Yakima BLAZE ORANGE: Yes
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: No DATE OF INCIDENT: 10/31/10

NARRATIVE: The shooter/victim was hunting elk. He was sitting when he received a radio message that another hunter in his party had shot an elk. He began to stand up to go assist the other hunter when he slipped in the mud and fell. His rifle discharged and he shot himself in the leg. The investigating officer reported that the rifle appeared to be in working order, suggesting that the safety had not been engaged.

CAUSE: Careless Handling, Victim slipped/fell without safety engaged

5. SHOOTER: 39 year-old male VICTIM: 50 year-old male
FIREARM: 12 gauge shotgun TYPE: Non-fatal
COUNTY: Grant BLAZE ORANGE: Yes
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes DATE OF INCIDENT: 11/13/10

NARRATIVE: The incident shooter and victim were hunting pheasants. The investigation revealed that the shooter had swung on a flushing bird and “fixated” on the bird, failing to see the victim in the line of fire approximately 50 yards away. The victim was struck in the head, neck, arm, torso, and legs with pellets. Shooter charged with *Reckless Endangerment*.

CAUSE: Careless Handling, Victim in line of fire

6. SHOOTER: 29 year-old male VICTIM: Self
FIREARM: .50 muzzle loader TYPE: Non-fatal
COUNTY: Whitman BLAZE ORANGE: N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes DATE OF INCIDENT: 11/30/10

NARRATIVE: The Shooter/victim was muzzle loader hunting for deer. The Shooter/victim had attempted to shoot a deer when the rifle “misfired”. The shooter/victim was going to attempt to “re-cap” the nipple when he slipped and fell. During the fall the rifle discharged, striking him in the foot.

CAUSE: Carless handling, failed to use “half-cock” safety mechanism

7. SHOOTER: 45 year-old male VICTIM: Self
FIREARM: 12 gauge shotgun TYPE: Non-fatal
COUNTY: Garfield BLAZE ORANGE: Yes
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Unk DATE OF INCIDENT: 12/10/10

NARRATIVE: The shooter/victim was hunting pheasants at the time of the incident. The shooter/victim was walking along a road that was covered in ice and snow when he slipped and fell. The shotgun discharged striking the victim in the leg.

CAUSE: Careless handling, Victim did not utilize the guns safety

8. SHOOTER: 16 year-old male VICTIM: 16 year-old male
FIREARM: 12 gauge shotgun TYPE: Non-fatal
COUNTY: Walla Walla BLAZE ORANGE: N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes DATE OF INCIDENT: 12/30/10

NARRATIVE: The shooter and victim were hunting ducks at the time of the incident. The victim was exiting the duck blind when the shooter “inadvertently” bumped the trigger causing the firearm to discharge striking the victim in the arm.

CAUSE: Careless handling, Victim did not utilize the guns safety

9. SHOOTER: 52 year-old male VICTIM: Self
FIREARM: 12 gauge shotgun TYPE: Non-fatal
COUNTY: Adams BLAZE ORANGE: N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: No DATE OF INCIDENT: 01/05/11

NARRATIVE: The shooter/victim was hunting geese at the time of the incident. The shooter/victim was in a "coffin" blind and preparing to rise up and out to fire as some approaching geese. The safety was not engaged and the trigger apparently caught on a large button on the shooter/victim's coat causing the firearm to discharge striking the shooter/victim in the foot.

CAUSE: Careless handling, Victim released the gun's safety too early

10. SHOOTER: 42 year-old male VICTIM: 47 year-old male
FIREARM: 10 gauge shotgun TYPE: Non-fatal
COUNTY: Lincoln BLAZE ORANGE: N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes DATE OF INCIDENT: 05/07/11

NARRATIVE: The shooter was hunting turkey. The victim was also turkey hunting using both a decoy and turkey calls and was in full camouflage clothing. The shooter had observed a tom turkey and was stalking it. He observed what he thought was the tom turkey took aim and discharged the firearm. The shot struck the victim in the thigh and shoulder.

CAUSE: Failure to identify target and careless handling

Cardinal Rules of Firearm Safety

- 1. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded and always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.*
- 2. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.*
- 3. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to fire.*
- 4. Never carry or place a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle.*
- 5. Never use a firearm that you are unfamiliar with and never use a firearm (that is not yours) without the owner's permission.*
- 6. Be sure the action and barrel are clear of obstructions.*
- 7. Never cross a fence, stream, or obstacle with a loaded firearm.*
- 8. Never point a firearm at anything you do not want to shoot.*
- 9. Unload firearms when not in use and store ammunition in a separate place away from firearm.*
- 10. Never use alcohol or drugs before or during shooting.*