



# Youth Convicted Of 2nd Degree Manslaughter

ON JUNE 2, 2009 Skagit COUNTY Superior Court Judge Susan Cook acquitted a 15 year-old hunter of first degree manslaughter but found him guilty of second degree manslaughter with a firearm. The youth was charged with killing 54 year-old Pamela Almli last August, mistaking her for a bear.

The youth, who successfully completed Washington's hunter education training course, was bear hunting with his 16 year-old brother on a popular hiking trail in foggy conditions when he shot and killed the victim at a distance less than 100 yards away.

Sentencing for the youth is scheduled in early July.

The bench trial (there was no jury and the decision was entered by the judge) found that the youth didn't act recklessly, which is an element required for a conviction on the first degree manslaughter charge.

The tragic shooting last August generated widespread media attention and led to the introduction during the 2009 legislative session of several bills dealing with youth hunting and hunter education training. None of the bills passed into law during the session.

Although no hunter education instructors

testified at the trial, several Fish and Wildlife Officers and hunter education division staff testified as witnesses for the prosecution.

Hunter education testimony focused particular attention on legal training requirements, the training curriculum and the evaluation standards for successful completion of hunter education training. Testimony also revealed that the student successfully passed the hunter education written exam, a field course and a live-firing evaluation.

This trial and the intense public interest in potential new legislation for youth hunters and the trial's outcome underscore the necessity for hunter education instructors to follow policies and procedures 100% of the time. Our hunter education training requirement, our hunter education training materials, and our hunter education evaluation standards are effective only when uniformly applied, as they were in this student's case.

Legislative bills introduced during the recent session included restoring a 14 year age minimum age for juveniles hunting alone and a separate bill raising that age to 15 and requiring younger students to retake training unless they purchased a license in two years.

## Submit THMFSA Nominations By 11/30

ONCE AGAIN it's time to solicit nominations for the Terry Hoffer Memorial Firearm Safety Award (THMFSA). Please submit recommendations by November 30, 2009.

The THMFSA is named in honor Fish and Wildlife

Officer Terry Hoffer, who died in the line of duty as a result of a gunshot wound inflicted by a careless hunter. The award recognizes excellence in hunter education training.

Staff review all nominations, with final selection made by a panel including

instructors and officers.

The award recipient receives a firearm (valued up to the maximum amount of the award), a plaque and a "traveling trophy." All nominations must be in writing. No special nomination form is required.

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### Dates To Remember

- July 17-19 – Pierce County Training
- August 29- – Pend Oreille County Training
- May 30 – Spangle, Regional IST

### Important Contacts

- Olympia: 1-800-215-1979
- Chuck Ray: 1-800-468-5006
- E-mail: [huntered@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:huntered@dfw.wa.gov)
- Blog: <http://hunter-education.blogspot.com>

# Poachers Beware....

JERRY STEIN, Snohomish County Hunter Education Instructor

IT JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU that you can always count on the unexpected at a hunter education class. At a recent class held at the Boy Scout Reservation, Camp Piggot in Snohomish County, everything started out as normal until it came time to make the announcement concerning felons in the classroom.

One person came over to me and told me that he was a convicted poacher and had been ordered by the court to take a hunter education class. He actually told the entire class of his situation and related the consequences of poaching and what happened to those that got caught. He truly seemed remorseful and repentant. In fact, he did rather well in the class as far as knowledge and attitude. He was not allowed to handle any firearms or ammunition so he couldn't take the field course or live-firing portion of my class (I didn't offer him a bow-only field evaluation). If he had not been a poacher he would have been the kind of person you wouldn't mind having as a friend.

I always invite a Fish and Wildlife Officer to talk or teach a portion of our class to put substance to what we teach and confirm the seriousness of our efforts. Fish and Wildlife Officer Nick Jork and his Karelian Bear Dog attended that particular class. Little did anyone know that Officer Jork was the one responsible for arresting the poacher in my class! We were all surprised when we found out. The poacher's expression and color had changed a couple of shades to an interesting color of red and definitely wasn't expecting to see Officer Jork there in his class. My staff and I all got some amusement how the turn of events transpired and put the poacher and the rest of the class into a totally different dynamic for the rest of the day. By the end of class everybody had a new perspective on hunter education and how serious poaching and obeying the laws and regulations are. I felt all benefited from the experience of the poacher and the wildlife officer.

If possible, always have a Fish and Wildlife Officer appear at hunter education classes. It makes a stronger impression on the students than just instructors talking about information in the manual. And poachers beware....you never know where or when you'll run into your local Fish and Wildlife Officer!

## H.E.R.O. Corner

*IT HAS BEEN* a long time since we have communicated with fellow hunter education instructors through this newsletter! The Hunter Education Resources Organization (HERO) board of directors have been busy finalizing our non-profit status and securing sources of funding to carry out the mission of HERO.

Our mission, simply stated, is to provide hunter education instructors with resources to teach the next generation of hunters. We are now in a position to start down that road.

Because of our difficulties getting the organization fully functional we have not asked for dues for 2009. All of you who are members are still members.

We have a few bolt-action rifles that are available, some are non-functional but are great for demonstration and handling. We also have two shotguns.

We need some help with a web page and ask for volunteers.

Contact me (Jack George), secretary, at (509) 366-8383, or Hunter Education Resources Organization, P. O. Box 1904, Richland, 99352, or [huntedresorg@gmail.com](mailto:huntedresorg@gmail.com)

## Send All Requests For Ammo Through Chuck Or Dan

PLEASE REMEMBER to send any requests for ammunition through Chuck Ray or Dan Boes. All ammo requests must be approved by Chuck or Dan in advance.

Generally speaking, WDFW will reserve ammo for either (1) New teaching teams, or, (2) Teaching teams that do not charge any fees or request any donations.

WDFW hunter education ammunition costs have increased substantially in the past year. While some teaching teams have been very successful in obtaining resources to provide for their ammunition needs, other teaching teams are less fortunate and sometimes rely on out-of-pocket expenses. Obviously, we don't want instructors to subsidize costs for student range activities.

## Field Notes: News, Views And More....

### **Remember**

**Policy: Instructors charging a fee of more than \$5 per student are required to get approval in writing in advance! This policy applies to every instructor and every team.**

**The hunter education deferral** will be two years old in September and so far the program is working pretty much as intended. About 1,800 individuals have obtained deferrals to date. A few reminders for all instructors include:

- The deferral is not available to students who have failed a hunter education course within the previous 12 months. (We have had instructors refer students to the deferral after failing in the course.)
- The deferral is not available to students under 10 years of age. Surprisingly, a large number of individuals applying for a deferral are over 18 years of age. Although we expected to see more younger students, we're actually finding more adults applying for deferrals.

**Clark County** (Vancouver), is an area we need additional hunter education classes. Of the 11 scheduled classes listed on our web site, all are full (and have been for some time) and we anticipate there will be additional demand for classes through the summer and early fall months. If you are interested and available in assisting in putting on additional Clark County classes, please contact Dan Boes directly at (360) 902-8409.

**Ammunition** is increasingly difficult for us to obtain—even under state contract. We have a good supply of 20-gauge ammunition in stock now but have no idea when or whether we will be able to obtain .22 LR or .223 ammo. We continue to strongly encourage live-

firing, but we simply have no idea about other ammo.

Ammunition requests are limited to 3 rounds per student for 20-gauge and/or .223, and up to 10 rounds per student for .22 LR, subject to stock on hand.

In terms of priorities, ammunition is available first to new teaching teams and second to teams that do not charge or request donations.

**Mike LaBarre**, Lewis County, has developed a simple, innovative indoor "fence" for his indoor field course practice. Mike uses twine to create a 3-strand "wire" fence by drilling holes about 18" apart in each of three 2 x 4's about 60 inches long. Mike then nails a 15" square piece of plywood to the base of each 2 x 4 so that each "fence post" will stand upright. He then runs the twine through each of the holes in the three "fence posts" and secures each end of the twine to a bench or other heavy object to keep the "wire" taught. Cheap to construct, easy to transport and set up and totally safe to use in a hunter education classroom!

Another good tip from Mike's classroom is his repetitious use of "Safe and unloaded!" every time anybody picks up a firearm in class. Mike carefully models "Safe and unloaded" as he introduces shotguns and rifles, demonstrating that he checks each firearm and repeating it loudly each time he picks up a firearm. Students quickly get in the act as they learn and remember a valuable lesson!

**The hunter education web site** lists hunter education classes in date order...but the date order changes as new classes are added. Instructors who provided their class schedules by our mid-December deadline noticed everything in perfect order.

Instructors who submitted class schedules after December have noticed that their classes may appear

at the top or bottom of the county list, regardless of their month and date. Currently there is no way to modify those listings—but a fix will be introduced for the 2010 schedules. We know that students may not always take the time to completely search through a county list....but we can't change this year.

**Online student registration** activity is still taking place behind closed doors and we hope to have our system online by July 1. Remember chief instructors will decide for themselves whether they wish to use the online registration system—but the instructors that use us must use it for all students enrolled in that class. Thanks for your patience as we proceed apace!

### **JAN's Corner**

We're making the transition from our "quiet" season to an incredibly busy one. Thanks for double-checking your student and course records to make my job easier!

Please continue to remind your successful students to look for a postcard in the mail—that's all they will receive after completing hunter education training. They will need to use the postcard to purchase their first license and that's all I am now sending students statewide. I stopped using the previously free "orange" card in late December.

Of course, I still process requests for new orange plastic cards providing students complete the online application and send in their required \$8 application fee!

Remember that I'm just an e-mail (ulijojlu@dfw.wa.gov) or a phone call (360-902-8112) away if you have any questions about your course records. I appreciate the attention to detail I've seen over the past year. Keep up the good work!

# New Standards For New Instructors

SINCE LATE MARCH hunter education staff have denied more applications for hunter education instructors than ever before. At issue is implementation of an agency standard that sets specific and strict requirements regarding the new instructor application process. Basically, any instructor applicant who has falsified an application is automatically denied, and no application shall be approved for individuals who have been convicted of a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor within the previous 10-year period. Individuals convicted of felony crimes are barred from applying for status as a hunter education instructor.

These are the same basic standards that apply to individuals wishing to work for the WDFW Enforcement Program.

The obvious questions is “Why change? Why now?”

In the last newsletter we reported on four instructors who were either convicted of or involved in ongoing wildlife criminal cases; none of the instructors involved immediately contacted hunter education division staff and some *never* contacted us. We only learned of these situations after-the-fact and often quite by accident. This is a pattern we simply cannot repeat.

Concurrently, the WDFW Enforcement Program is seeking the highest level of nationwide accreditation as a law enforcement agency. The hunter education division is a key component of enforcement and is required to meet or exceed certain accreditation standards.

Finally, we can't teach hunter education subject matter about rules and regulations unless we also abide by those very rules and regulations. The hunting community rightly expects hunter education instructors to be role models for tomorrow's hunters.

Hunter education division staff have modified instructor application procedures in light of these strict new standards.

Previously the instructor applicant background check was often done as the last step in the instructor certification process. Now the instructor background check is the first step since we don't want applicants to pursue certification if they are going to fail the background check.

The key factor in determining whether an application proceeds or is denied is the accuracy of the information contained in the application. For example, we ask on the application (and have long asked) whether an individual has *ever* been charged with a misdemeanor or a felony. It's surprising how many individuals omit information in response, either inadvertently or deliberately. In some cases individuals may genuinely believe that their record is “clean” since their violation happened at a distant point in the past. But a criminal history always remains unless the individual's record has been expunged (a legal procedure that literally wipes the black mark from the slate).

If you are actively seeking hunter education applicants from your classes or in your communities, please take the time to review these strict new requirements before handing them an application for certification.

## CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

- No candidate convicted of a felony crime shall be approved.
- No candidate shall be approved if there is evidence of a falsified application.
- No candidate convicted of any misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor within the previous 10-year period shall be approved.
- No candidate shall be approved if the applicant's approval is not in the best interests of the Department.
- No candidate shall be approved unless of good character and suitable to represent the Department and the hunter education program to students and parents.
- No candidate shall be approved without completing an orientation training activity within one year of application.

# Hunter Education Annual Calendar

BELOW IS THE ANNUAL CALENDAR for hunter education activities in the months ahead. In a typical year the hunter education division doesn't have many deadlines or due dates, but the ones listed below are very important so that we can complete necessary background work in a timely fashion.

1. Please check the newsletter calendar regularly for key dates.
2. If in doubt about scheduled activities or due dates, please check in advance with fellow instructors or WDFW hunter education division staff. **Application due dates are final and no extensions are granted.**
3. Check online for immediate access to current and previous issues of hunter education newsletters
4. Let WDFW hunter education division staff know if there are any key dates missing. We want this calendar tool to be helpful to you and fellow instructors.

January 31	Applications due for incentive and multi-season permits
February 20	Newsletter posted online
March 31	Logo shirt orders due
April 20	Newsletter posted online
May (date varies)	<i>Youth Expo</i>
June 20	Newsletter posted online
July 1	THMFSA application period is open
31	Logo shirt order due
August 20	Newsletter posted online
September 1	Initial request for class schedules for year
October 20	Newsletter posted online
November 31	THMFSA application period is closed
December 14	Class schedule deadline
20	Newsletter posted online
31	C.I. Financial Reports due

# A Range Day Plan For Students With Felony Convictions

BY ALAN JONES, King County Bowhunter and Hunter Education Instructor

Hunter education students convicted of felony or domestic violence crimes may **not** handle a firearm. Such students should notify you of their felony status at the beginning of class so you can make provisions for them during the evaluation (NOTE: See *Felon In Possession Notice* included with this mailing. You should always read and post the notice at the beginning of class.)

Felony students may still successfully pass a Hunter Education course by demonstrating safe and competent handling of archery equipment. They may lawfully purchase a hunting license to hunt with archery equipment.

Most felony students are older and will have their own bow, arrows and tackle (shooting glove or mechanical release, arm guard, etc). Ask the student to bring their bow, tackle and **arrows with field or target points only** to your range day. A bow with a nocked arrow is a loaded bow and every bit as lethal as a loaded firearm. Students should handle a bow with all the care they would demonstrate while handling a firearm.

## Expectations

- Students shall demonstrate knowledge of safe handling of archery equipment;
- Students shall never nock an arrow onto the string until they are ready to shoot at a target;
- Students shall have only practice or bullet points at range day; NO BROADHEADS;
- Students shall carry arrows in a hooded quiver any time they are not actually shooting at a target;
- Students shall never point a nocked arrow at anyone or anything they don't plan to shoot at (zone of fire);
- Students shall be able to draw their bow while keeping the bow perfectly level ("skying" the bow indicates the bow draw weight is too high for the student's strength); and
- Students shall not walk with a nocked arrow on their bow.

## Exercises

- Unloading Bows from Vehicles: Felony students should bring their bows to class in either a hard or soft case. Leave the case in the vehicle until instructed to retrieve it.  
When instructed, the felony student shall bring the cased bow to the range table. The felony student shall demonstrate to the instructor that the bow is safe to shoot:
  - the bowstring shall not have broken strands,
  - the bow limbs shall not be de-laminated,
  - bowsight, quiver, rest and stabilizer shall be securely attached to the bow,
  - arrows will be straight and not cracked,
  - arrow fletching will be completely secured to the shafts, and
  - arrows should match his/her draw length and the bow's draw weight.
- Carry Positions: Felony students can demonstrate carrying a bow.
  - At-the-ready – by the handle, up in shooting position
  - Trail carry - by the handle with one hand near the hip
  - Shoulder carry
  - Sling carry – some bowhunters use a sling on their bows.
- Field Course: Felony students will carry a bow without a nocked arrow over the field course. Arrows shall have practice points and be secured in a hooded quiver (bow, hip or shoulder). Students will overcome obstacles with the same care and practice as those students with a firearm (e.g., felony students shall hand their bow off to a partner when crossing creeks, logs, etc.). If the felony student is carrying a hip or shoulder quiver, they do not have to hand off the quiver to a partner while overcoming an obstacle.  
Students will not nock an arrow until they have stopped walking, have a target in sight, and are ready to shoot. The student will not carry an arrow in their hand while walking. The bow is considered unloaded when there is no arrow nocked on the string.
- Live-Fire: As with a typical student using firearms, the goal of this exercise is to insure that the felony student can maintain safe control of their shooting arm while shooting. Set up a soft target that will absorb arrows; e.g., straw bales, a foam arrow target, a carpet bale target, or a burlap sack filled with shrink-wrap. Do NOT use a rocky hillside or a backstop that could allow the arrow to ricochet back towards the student!  
Felony students should be able to hit a 12-in diameter paper plate target 80% of the time (4 out of 5 shots) from 10 yards. If they cannot, they have not demonstrated even modestly safe control of their archery equipment.

## Looking At The Laws—Changes To Key WACs and RCWs

THERE HAVE BEEN many changes in the law and key provisions are highlighted below:

### RCW 77.32.155, Hunter education training program

For each of the past several legislative sessions there have been suggestions or bills introduced to provide exemptions for either members of the military, law enforcement, etc. Each time such a bill has been discussed or introduced, WDFW has testified in opposition. Late in the legislative year this April a bill passed and was signed into law with the following exemption:

The director shall, as part of establishing the training program, exempt members of the United

States military from the firearms skills portion of any instruction course completed over the internet.

The bill will have no impact on instructors conducting traditional or compressed hunter education classes.

The exemption applies only to members of the military who are enrolled in online hunter education.

Please be sure that any military members who express an interest in availing themselves of this exemption are directed to enroll in online education. (NOTE: This bill becomes effective July 27, 2009. WDFW staff will revise online procedures by then and notify all instructors who conduct evaluations for online students how to implement provisions for this new law.)

### WAC 232-12-227, Hunter education training program requirements

For many years hunters could show either (a) a previous Washington hunting license, or, (b) a hunter education certification card issued by Washington State or another state/province to purchase a hunting license.

Use of a previous license has become more of an issue because without computerized license data there has been no way to determine whether the first hunting license the individual obtained was obtained lawfully. This created problems for both dealers (who have had to endure the ire or angry customers) and agency staff (who often had no records to review). In June the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a modified regulation eliminating the option of presenting a prior hunting license. Effective July 10 individuals must (1) present a valid hunter education certificate, (2) be listed in the department's licensing data system with a valid hunter education certificate number, or, (3) be born prior to 1/1/72 in order to purchase a Washington hunting license.

### 9.41 Alien in possession of firearm, new section added

In the recent past it was virtually impossible for an alien to obtain an alien's firearm license in order to hunt lawfully in our state. Similarly, it was unlawful for an alien to possess a firearm and participate in hunter education training activities. At issue was the state requirement for a criminal background check, which effectively delayed the processing of an application. The 2009 legislature addressed this issue (as part of a larger overhaul) by adding the following new section:

(1) A nonimmigrant alien, who is not a resident of Washington or a citizen of Canada, may carry or possess any firearm without having first obtained an alien firearm license if the nonimmigrant alien possesses:

(a) A valid passport and visa showing he or she is in the country legally;

(b) If required under federal law, an approved United States department of justice ATF-6 NIA application and permit for temporary importation of firearms and ammunition by nonimmigrant aliens; and

(c) (I) A valid hunting license issued by a state or territory of the United States, or

(ii) An invitation to participate in a trade show or sport shooting event being conducted in this state, another state, or another country that is contiguous with this state.

## From The Desk Of Lt. Crown: Logo Shirts Orders Due 7/31

MORE AND MORE HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS are now wearing the same WDFW long-sleeved and WDFW polo shirts worn by Dan Boes and Chuck Ray. Well, that's because those instructors with shirts paid for the shirts themselves!

WDFW has approved instructors' use of agency logo shirts as hunter education uniform items. Naturally, any such use is restricted to appropriate venues (e.g., classes, sports shows, fairs, and meetings, etc.).

To simplify the ordering process, hunter education division now order pre-paid shirts only two times per year.

*Both men's and women's styles are now available.*

If you wish to purchase either the button-down long-sleeved shirt (with embroidered WDFW logo) or the short-sleeved polo shirt (with embroidered WDFW logo) we must have your check in the Olympia office by 5:00 p.m. July 31. Any checks received after that date will be held until the next order deadline in January 2010.

All shirts are produced to order, and there may be more than a three month delay between the order deadline and the actual receipt of the shirts. Please be patient!

(Ladies be sure to note if you prefer a female cut!) Checks should be made payable to WDFW / HED Suspense Account. Include a note indicating size, color and quantity required. Send checks to Jan in Olympia.

Style (with logo)	Size M or F?	Color	Cost
Polo shirt	S, M, L, XL	Khaki or green	11.50
	XXL	Khaki or green	13.50
Long-sleeve	S, M, L, XL	Khaki or green	21.75
	XXL	Khaki or green	23.75

**Sizes beyond XXL are available, for an additional \$2.50 more than the cost shown above.**

*Include your name, shirt style, size, quantity and colors ordered. Print legibly and include your check.*

## New Instructor Schedule For 2009

THE FORMER PRE-SERVICE TRAINING program has been discontinued. In its place Chuck Ray and Dan Boes now serve as lead evaluators for weekend classes that insure applicant candidates demonstrate their practical skills in a hunter education course.

All applicants are required to complete one of the three remaining weekend programs below **prior** to certification:

July 17 – 19 Pierce County  
 August 29 – 30 Pend Oreille Cty  
 September 11 – 13 Clark Cty

Applicants will receive mileage and per diem reimbursement to participate in these practical class.

As preparation for these weekend

classes, new instructor candidates are required to work with existing chief instructors to become familiar with the hunter education program and "learn the ropes."

Whether it's registering students, grading tests or teaching different sections of the curriculum, we all know the way to build skill and confidence is by doing. The new certification process allows applicants to work with mentor instructors to learn and demonstrate skills as they prepare for the weekend evaluation programs.

Please note that Chuck Ray (eastern Washington) and Dan Boes (western Washington) assign all instructors to mentors. If you are a chief instructor and are interested, please contact Chuck or Dan directly.

"Why change a good thing like

the PST?" is a question we've already heard from some instructors. While the former PST process was enjoyable and informative, it was also very time intensive. More importantly, there was always a high rate of attrition, with only 90+ instructors attaining certification in an average year. High applicant interest didn't always translate into a successful new hunter education instructor, leading us to change to the current format for 2009.

One of the key components to success in this new approach is a close relationship between the new applicant and existing chief instructors. New instructors must demonstrate initiative and interest in working with mentors.

Contact Chuck or Dan to see how you can help.

# Budget Cuts Lead To WDFW Layoffs And Service Reductions

A \$21 MILLION reduction in funding over the next two years requires the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to lay off 76 employees and curtail some services.

The layoffs, along with elimination of dozens of vacant positions, become effective at the close of the current fiscal year June 30.

WDFW executive managers have been planning for a significant budget reduction for months, and in the meantime have been pursuing a number of savings and efficiency efforts to reduce current spending.

As much as possible, reductions were structured to preserve core department missions of conserving fish and wildlife, providing sustainable fishing, hunting and wildlife-viewing opportunities and maintaining field operations, said WDFW Deputy Director Joe Stohr.

Despite those efforts, there will be reductions in basic services, he said.



Hatchery fish production, wildlife species recovery activities, technical assistance for habitat protection, wildlife area maintenance, fish and wildlife population monitoring, customer service and outreach and education are among the activities that will be reduced. The hunter education division was not affected by the reductions.

Overall WDFW will face a reduction of about \$30 million from the previous budget. But other measures approved by the Legislature this year are expected to partially offset that reduction by generating more than \$9 million in new revenues for the department.

“While these budget cuts are deep and painful, we recognize they could have been far worse without the support the department received from legislators,” said Phil Anderson, WDFW interim director.

One new measure, House Bill 1778, allows WDFW to collect a temporary two-year, 10 percent surcharge on sales of fishing and hunting licenses and permits, and is expected to generate about \$6 million in revenue. The bill also allows the department to offer fishing with two poles on designated lakes, generating about \$2 million over two years. Another new law, Senate Bill 5421, is expected to generate about \$1.75 million over two years through a new stamp for recreational salmon and steelhead fishing in the Columbia River and some of its tributaries.

To mitigate the anticipated budget shortfall, the department has made ongoing efforts to increase efficiency.

## THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Online learning now available at [www.hunter-ed.com/wa/](http://www.hunter-ed.com/wa/)

Email: [huntered@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:huntered@dfw.wa.gov)  
Blog: <http://hunter-education.blogspot.com>

***“Safety First”***

We're on the Web at  
[wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov)

# Firearms Possession

*Individuals who are lawfully prevented from possessing a firearm under state or federal law MUST report immediately to the course instructors. Any individual who unlawfully handles a firearm in a hunter education course is subject to criminal liability and penalties.*