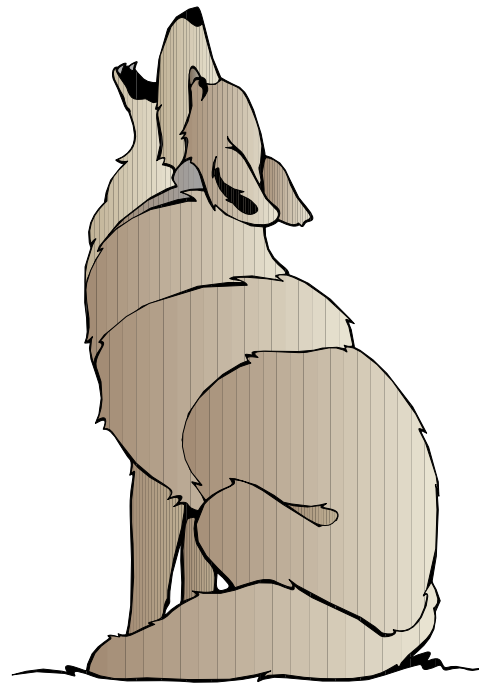

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Washington

July 1, 2008 — June 30, 2009



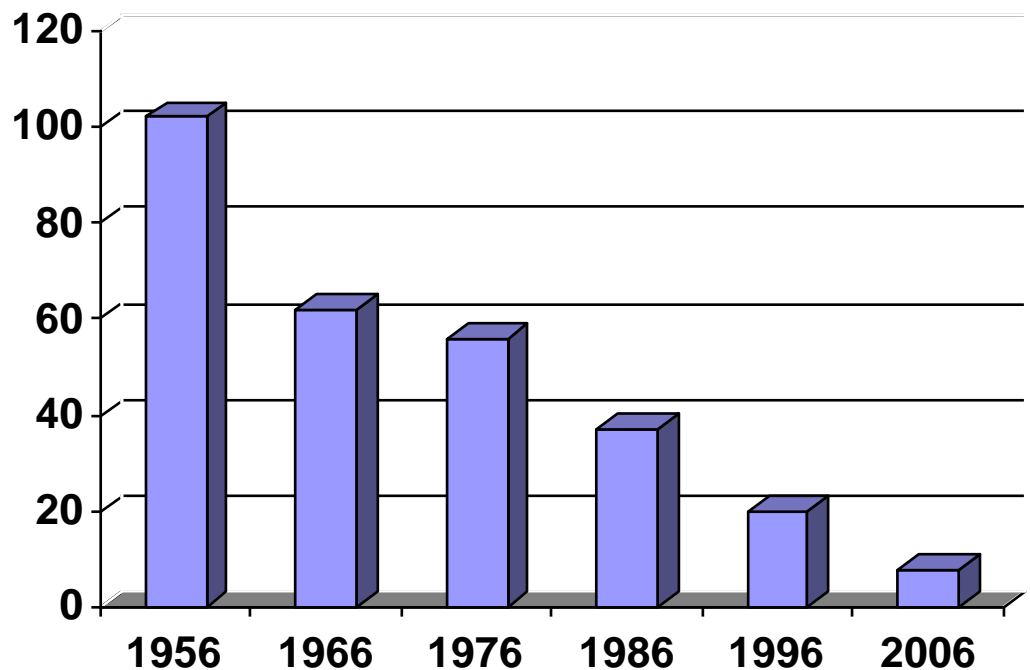
*Washington
Department of*
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Hunting Incident Report
Hunter Education Division
Enforcement Program

Hunting Incidents In Washington 1937 – 2009

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 - 2006	8	92	2	102	2
2007 - 2009	5	19	0	24	2
Total #	360	1,570	50	1,996	71

Hunting Fatalities By Decade



HUNTING INCIDENT DATA SUMMARY

July 1, 2008 — June 30, 2009

	<u>Fatal Incidents</u>	<u>Non-Fatal Incidents</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
Eastern Washington	3	2	5
Western Washington	<u>*1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	*4	3	*7

*Under investigation; has not yet been determined whether it is a hunting incident.

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	2	Shotgun	1	2	3
Shot by someone in same party	*3	Rifle	*3	0	3
Shot by someone outside party	2	Handgun	0	0	0
Livestock	<u>0</u>	Muzzleloader	0	1	1
Total	*7	Archery	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
			*4	3	*7

* One has not yet been determined whether it is a hunting incident.

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	1	1
Deer/elk	*2	1	*3
Waterfowl	1	1	2
Cougar	0	0	0
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	4	3	*7

* One has not yet been determined whether it is a hunting incident.

This program receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is the policy of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to adhere to the following: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 5604 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please contact WDFW ADA Coordinator at 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 or write to:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Office of External Programs
4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 130
Arlington, VA 22203

NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

1. **SHOOTER:** 39 year-old male **VICTIM:** 39 year-old male
 FIREARM: 12 gauge shotgun **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Spokane **BLAZE ORANGE:** Yes
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 10/25/08

NARRATIVE:

The shooter and victim were hunting pheasants about 35 yards apart when a bird flushed between them. The shooter fired, striking the victim in the legs, shoulder, face and eye. The victim was silhouetted by a willow tree and high grass and not easily visible to the shooter.

CAUSE: Victim covered by shooter swinging on game

2. **SHOOTER:** 47 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-inflicted
 FIREARM: .50 muzzleloading rifle **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Pacific **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 12/31/08

NARRATIVE:

The shooter returned to camp from a muzzleloading hunt and was putting his rifle on the top bunk in his camper when the gun discharged through his right hand. The shooter failed to remove the percussion cap before putting his firearm away and the safety was in the "off" position when the rifle discharged.

CAUSE: Careless handling

3. **SHOOTER:** 57 year-old male **VICTIM:** 55 year-old male
 FIREARM: 12 gauge shotgun **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Franklin **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 11/7/08

NARRATIVE:

The shooter was a waterfowl guide who, along with his client, was looking for crippled birds. The victim was about 50 yards away and obscured by a Russian olive tree when the shooter fired at a cripple on the water, striking the victim with one ricochet pellet in the face.

CAUSE: Victim out of sight of shooter / ricochet

FATAL INCIDENTS

4. **SHOOTER:** 14 year-old male **VICTIM:** 54 year-old female
 FIREARM: .270 rifle **TYPE:** Fatal
 COUNTY: Skagit **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 8/2/08

NARRATIVE: The shooter and his 16 year-old brother were hunting along a hiking trail during intermittent fog and observed movement below them about 80 yards away. The shooter thought it was a bear and fired, striking a hiker in the head and killing her instantly. The shooter was tried and convicted of second degree manslaughter.

CAUSE: Victim mistaken for game

5. **SHOOTER:** 28 year-old male **VICTIM:** 36 year-old male
 FIREARM: .270 rifle **TYPE:** Fatal
 COUNTY: Chelan **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 10/12/08

NARRATIVE: The shooter and a hunting companion were dropped off by the victim. They planned to hunt downhill and rendezvous later with the victim (who served as the vehicle driver). When the shooter approached the vehicle he began unloading and his rifle discharged, striking the victim inside the vehicle 25 yards away.

CAUSE: Careless handling while unloading (safety was off)

6. **SHOOTER:** 56 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-inflicted
 FIREARM: 12-gauge shotgun **TYPE:** Fatal
 COUNTY: Benton **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Unknown **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 10/19/08

NARRATIVE: A solo waterfowl hunter did not return home as expected, triggering a search. The hunter was found dead with a single gunshot wound to the chest. The wound was self-inflicted and appeared to be incidental.

CAUSE: Careless handling

7. **SHOOTER:** Unknown shooter **VICTIM:** 30 year-old male
FIREARM: Unknown rifle **TYPE:** Fatal
COUNTY: Skamania **BLAZE ORANGE:** No
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Unknown **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 11/1/2008

NARRATIVE: This incident took place during a November elk season. The victim was picking bear grass by himself when an unknown shooter fired a single shot, striking and killing the bear grass picker. The sheriff's office has identified a possible shooter in this incident, which is still under investigation. No determination has been made yet by the sheriff's office whether this was a hunting incident.

CAUSE: Under investigation: Possibly a case of victim mistaken for game