



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

# ANNUAL HUNTING INCIDENT REPORT

## LICENSE YEAR 2014

*April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015*



*A successful hunt, as shown above, is defined by the memories made during a safe time afield*

**Safe hunting is no accident**

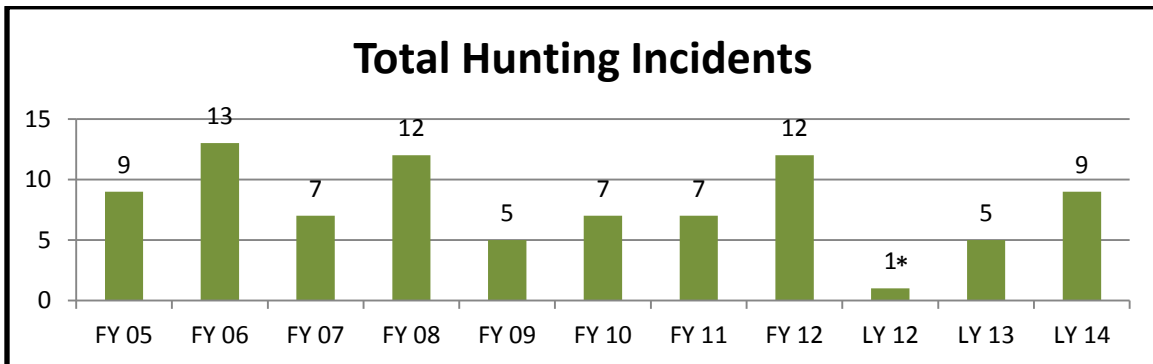
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# HUNTING INCIDENT DATA SUMMARY

April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

Total number of Hunting Incidents: 9

<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>			
	Fatal	Non-fatal	Total
	0	9	9
<b>SPECIES PURSUED AT TIME OF INCIDENT</b>			
Bear	0	0	0
Deer/elk	0	0	0
Waterfowl	0	0	0
Turkey	0	2	2
Upland Birds	0	1	1
Other or unknown	0	6	6
<b>LOCATION</b>			
Eastern Washington	0	5	5
Western Washington	0	4	4
<b>INCIDENT TYPE</b>			
Self-inflicted	0	4	4
Shot by person in same party	0	1	1
Shot by someone outside of party	0	3	3
Undetermined	0	1	1
<b>HUNTING EQUIPMENT</b>			
Shotgun	0	6	6
Rifle	0	0	0
Handgun	0	1	1
Muzzleloader	0	0	0
Archery	0	2	2



\* Between 2012 and 2013 WDFW began tabulating incidents by license year (LY) as opposed to fiscal year (FY). No incidents were double counted during this conversion.

# NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

## Cause: Failure to identify target

<b>Shooter:</b>	15 year old male	<b>Victim:</b>	14 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Shotgun	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Walla Walla	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	No	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	04/06/2014

The shooter mistook the victim for a turkey during a youth hunt.

## Cause: Failure to identify target

<b>Shooter:</b>	56 year old male	<b>Victim:</b>	61 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Shotgun	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Stevens	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	No	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	4/16/2014

The shooter thought he was shooting at a turkey.

## Cause: Failure to control muzzle

<b>Shooter:</b>	71 year old male - Self	<b>Victim:</b>	71 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Shotgun	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Lewis	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	No	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	6/2/2014

The victim suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to their hand while resetting a homemade shotgun mole trap.

## Cause: Failure to secure equipment

<b>Shooter:</b>	Self	<b>Victim:</b>	49 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Archery	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Skamania	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	Yes	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	9/04/2014

The victim suffered a wound to the back of his leg when he fell back onto an arrow that had fallen out of his quiver.

## Cause: Lack of safety harness

<b>Shooter:</b>	N/A	<b>Victim:</b>	17 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Archery	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Walla Walla	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	Yes	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	09/18/2014

The victim fell out of his tree stand.

# NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

## Cause: Failure to unload the firearm

<b>Shooter:</b>	Self	<b>Victim:</b>	53 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Handgun	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Grays Harbor	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	No	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	10/11/2014

The victim was trying to fix something inside the handgun when the handgun discharged into his ankle.

## Cause: Failure to maintain muzzle control

<b>Shooter:</b>	13 year old male	<b>Victim:</b>	35 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Shotgun	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	King	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	Yes	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	12/30/2014

The victim was shot while the shooter was trying to move the muzzle into a safe direction.

## Cause: Failure to maintain muzzle control

<b>Shooter:</b>	Hunting dog	<b>Victim:</b>	40 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Shotgun	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Franklin	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	No	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	1/10/2015

The victim and witness statements suggest that the victim's hunting dog caused the shotgun to fire and strike the victim.

## Cause: Failure to identify what lies beyond

<b>Shooter:</b>	62 year old male	<b>Victim:</b>	39 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Shotgun	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Spokane	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	Yes
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	Yes	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	2/17/2015

The victim was struck by shotgun pellets when the shooter shot across a public roadway at a bird.



## **Ten Firearm Safety Rules**

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and under control.
2. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire. Use your safety, but remember that safeties sometimes fail.
4. Be sure of your target and what lies beyond before firing.
5. Never place or carry a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
6. Never use a firearm unless you are familiar with how it works. If you need an owner's manual, write to the manufacturer.
7. Never cross a fence, climb a tree, cross a stream or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.
8. Never point at anything you do not want to shoot.
9. Unload firearms when not in use. Store firearms and ammunition separately.
10. Never use alcohol (or drugs) before or during shooting.



## Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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*If you need further assistance or information, please contact the Olympia office of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: (360) 902-2349, or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), (360) 902-2207.*