

Annual hunting incident report

License year 2024 (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025)



Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**

April 30, 2025

Annual hunting incident report

License year 2024 (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025)

Author

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Family talking after the morning hunt. Photo by Corey Garcia.

Cover photo by Codee Cornell.

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Hunting incident data summary

Table 1. Total incident breakdown

Fatal incidents	Non-fatal incidents	Total incidents
0	3	3

Table 1. Species hunted when incident occurred

Species	Fatal	Non-fatal	Total
Bear	0	0	0
Deer/elk	0	2	2
Waterfowl	0	0	0
Turkey	0	1	1
Upland Birds	0	0	0
Other or unknown	0	0	0

Table 3. Locations of incidents

Side of state	Fatal	Non-fatal	Total
Eastern Washington	0	1	1
Western Washington	0	2	2

Table 4. Shooter/victim relationship

Species	Fatal	Non-fatal	Total
Self-inflicted	0	1	1
Same hunting party	0	2	2
Different hunting party	0	0	0
Undetermined	0	0	0

Table 5. Hunting equipment used in incident

Species	Fatal	Non-fatal	Total
Shotgun	0	1	1
Rifle	0	2	2
Handgun	0	0	0
Muzzleloader	0	0	0
Archery	0	0	0
Crossbow	0	0	0

License year 2024 non-fatal incident information

Table 6. Non-fatal incident 1

Category	Incident details
Cause	Hunter judgement mistake
Date of incident	04/27/2024
Hunting equipment	Shotgun
Shooter	40-year-old male
Victim	15-year-old male
County	Stevens
Hunter ed graduate	Yes
Hunter orange	No
Narrative	Victim out of sight of shooter in low light and the shooter did not confirm their target prior to shooting.

Table 7. Non-fatal incident 2

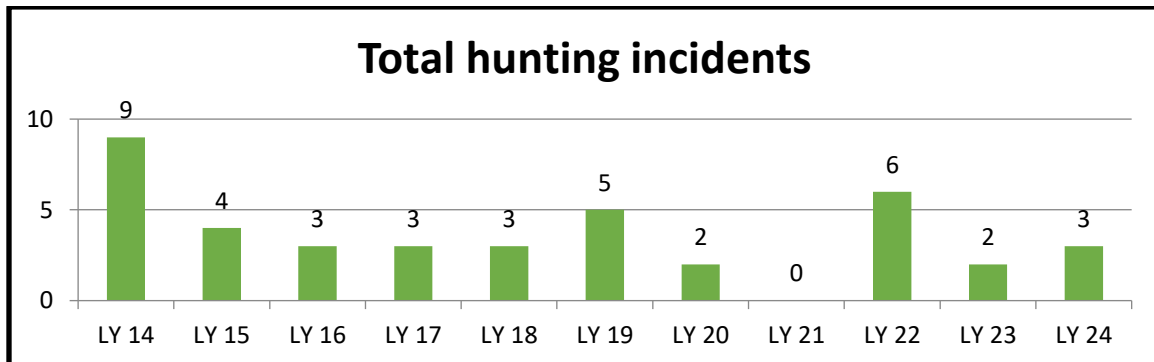
Category	Incident details
Cause	Safety rule violation
Date of incident	10/27/2024
Hunting equipment	Rifle
Shooter	27-year-old female
Victim	29-year-old male
County	Lewis
Hunter ed graduate	Yes
Hunter orange	Yes
Narrative	Shooter was unloading her rifle and thought the safety needed to be turned off in order to unload when the firearm discharged.

Table 8. Non-fatal incident 3

Category	Incident details
Cause	Safety rule violation
Date of incident	11/14/2024
Hunting equipment	Rifle
Shooter	46-year-old female
Victim	Self
County	Lewis
Hunter ed graduate	Yes
Hunter orange	N/A
Narrative	Shooter/victim was loading firearm as she was exiting the vehicle.

Figure 1. Hunting incidents by license year

Hunting incidents by license year for the past 10 years.



Photos from top left to bottom right: Trevor Nurmi, Harold Abell, Jennifer Sepulveda, Adam Prater, Omar Alam, and Ben Collins.