



WILDLIFE RESOURCES

State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources



Prepared by:
Hunter Education Program
Conservation Outreach Section

Annual Hunting Incident Report

2015



Federal Aid Project
funded by your purchase of
hunting equipment

The International Hunter Education Association's Definition of a Hunting Incident:
An occurrence or an event that results in the physical injury or death of a person or persons which involves the discharge or use of a hunting implement while engaged in hunting activity. "Hunting" is described as follows: To pursue, take, attempt to take, search for, stalk or lie in wait for any animal.

2015 Hunting Incident Summary

FATAL INCIDENTS

1

NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

8

BREAKDOWN

Shooter's Age

Under 12	1
12 to 15	1
16 to 21	1
22 to 30	1
31 to 40	1
41 and over	1
Unknown	3

TOTAL 9

Possible Cause of Incident

Victim out of sight of shooter	2
Careless or reckless handling of firearm	3
Careless or reckless handling of firearm/Defective firearm	1
Firearm fell, insecure rest	1
Unloading a firearm on vehicle	1
Careless or reckless handling of archery equipment	1

TOTAL 9

Victim's Age

Under 12	2
12 to 15	0
16 to 21	0
22 to 30	2
31 to 40	2
41 and over	1
Unknown	2

TOTAL 9

Game Hunted

Elk	2
Deer	3
Waterfowl	2
Rabbit	1

TOTAL 9

Four of the nine incidents were self-inflicted

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
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24 year-old Male	Yes	.50 cal Muzzleloader	Self-inflicted		Deer
Remarks:	The victim was hunting deer with family members. They split up to hunt away from each other. The victim was hiking down a heavily brushed hill side with his muzzleloader slung on his right shoulder. He came to some thick brush and removed the muzzleloader from his shoulder, as he did he dropped the muzzleloader which then discharged and the bullet striking him just below the right arm pit and exiting out the top of his shoulder.				
Possible Cause:	Firearm fell				
Location of Incident:	Sevier County				

34year-old Male	Yes	30-06 Rifle	Self-inflicted		Elk
Remarks:	The victim was returning to his vehicle after hunting elk for the evening. His rifle was slung over his right shoulder, as he was putting his backpack in the vehicle the rifle slipped off his shoulder with the muzzle pointing forward. The rifle discharged as he caught it and the bullet struck his right foot. The victim admitted he knew the safety on the firearm was broken and nonfunctioning.				
Possible Cause:	Defective firearm/Careless or reckless handling of firearm				
Location of Incident:	Daggett County				

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
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46 year-old Male	Yes	300 WSM Rifle	Self-inflicted		Deer
Remarks:	The victim was hunting deer with a guide on a CWMU. As he removed his slung rifle from his shoulder it discharged. The bullet struck him in the foot. The safety was not on at the time of the incident.				
Possible Cause:	Careless or reckless handling of firearm				
Location of Incident:	Millard County				

9 year-old Male	No	.22 cal rifle	10 year-old Male	Yes	Rabbit
Remarks:	The victim and shooter were hunting jackrabbits. The shooter was carrying his rifle with the safety off. One of the members of the hunting party instructed him to put the safety on. As was trying to put the safety on the rifle discharge and the bullet struck the victim in the left foot.				
Possible Cause:	Careless or reckless handling of firearm				
Location of Incident:	Sanpete County				

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
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Unknown Male	Unknown	Shotgun	Unknown	Unknown	Waterfowl
Remarks:	The victim was hunting waterfowl on opening day at Farmington Bay WMA. He was struck in the right leg (shin) with a single BB.				
Possible Cause:	Victim out of sight of shooter				
Location of Incident:	Davis County				

Unknown Male	Unknown	Shotgun	Unknown	Unknown	Waterfowl
Remarks:	The victim was hunting waterfowl on opening day at Farmington Bay WMA. He was struck in the right cheekbone with a single BB.				
Possible Cause:	Victim out of sight of shooter				
Location of Incident:	Davis County				

NON- FATAL

VICTIM'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	FIREARM USED	SHOOTER'S AGE & SEX	HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINED	GAME HUNTED
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25 year-old Male	Yes	Rifle	Self-inflicted		Rabbit
Remarks: The victim was driving down a rural road at night when a rabbit ran down the road in front of him in the headlights of his truck. He stopped and got out of the truck to take a shot. He missed the rabbit, reloaded his firearm then got back in the truck. As he entered the truck he threw the firearm into the passenger seat. The firearm discharged striking him in the left forearm.					
Possible Cause: Loaded Firearm in Vehicle, Alcohol					
Location of Incident: Sanpete County					

36 year-old Male	Yes	Archery	16 year-old Male	Yes	Deer
Remarks: On the opening day of the archery deer hunt the shooter was hunting deer with his step-father and one other person. While pushing deer through a wooded area, the shooter, who was out of sight of the others, drew his bow back using a mechanical release to "look through his sights." He pulled the arrow back about a quarter draw and stated his release failed, sending the arrow into the back of the victim, who was out of sight. The arrow struck the victim in the back just left of the spine.					
Possible Cause: Careless handling of archery equipment					
Location of Incident: San Juan County					

FATAL

VICTIM'S
AGE & SEX

HUNTER EDUCATION
TRAINED

FIREARM
USED

SHOOTER'S
AGE & SEX

HUNTER EDUCATION
TRAINED

GAME
HUNTED

10 year-old
Male

No

30-06 Rifle

14 year-old
Male

Yes

Elk

Remarks:

The victim and shooter were on an elk hunt with their fathers. They had returned to a ridge on their ATV's where one of the hunters had left his binoculars. They parked the ATV's and walked down the ridge to retrieve the binoculars. The victim was cold and decided to stay at the ATV's to get out of the wind. He was sitting on the foot well. The shooter returned to the ATV's and realized his rifle was still loaded in the gun rack on the front of his ATV. He tried to unload the rifle while it was still in the rack. He had a difficult time opening the bolt and on the third attempt the rifle discharged striking the victim in the neck and upper left shoulder.

Possible Cause:

Unloading a firearm on vehicle

Location of Incident: Cache County