



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

ANNUAL HUNTING INCIDENT REPORT

LICENSE YEAR 2019

April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020



Photo by Eric Stinson

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

Safe hunting is no accident

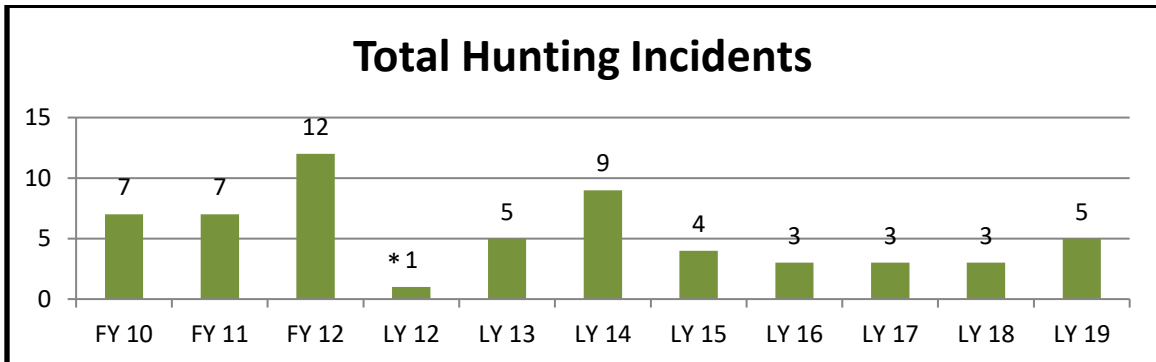
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HUNTING INCIDENT DATA SUMMARY

April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

Total number of Hunting Incidents: 5

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



* 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 the target

Shooter:	17 year old male	Victim:	63 year old male 68 year old male
Hunting Equipment:	Shotgun	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	Stevens	Hunter Orange:	No
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Yes	Date of Incident:	04/16/2019

The shooter saw what they believed was a puffed-up turkey and fired. The puffed-up turkey was actually two other hunters standing in the trail. Both were struck by pellets.

Cause: Failure to maintain muzzle control

Shooter:	64 year old male	Victim:	Self
Hunting Equipment:	Shotgun	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	Snohomish	Hunter Orange:	No
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Yes	Date of Incident:	09/08/2019

Shooter was exiting his boat from a morning of goose hunting. He grabbed the shotgun by the barrel and proceeded to remove it from the boat. The firearm bounced on the boat's seat and the trigger was pulled. The shotgun discharged into the shooter's thigh from about two inches away.

Cause: Failure to maintain muzzle control

Shooter:	50 year old male	Victim:	Self
Hunting Equipment:	Muzzleloader	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	Okanogan	Hunter Orange:	No
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Unknown	Date of Incident:	10/06/2019

Shooter tripped while walking and his muzzleloader discharged into his leg.

Cause: Failure to identify zone of fire

Shooter:	70 year old male	Victim:	71 year old male
Hunting Equipment:	Shotgun	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	Walla Walla	Hunter Orange:	Yes
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Unknown	Date of Incident:	10/20/2019

Shooter and victim were hunting pheasants along a railroad track. A pheasant got up and both the victim and shooter fired at the pheasant. The victim was struck in his elbow by one size 4 shot from the shooter's shotgun.

Cause: Failure to maintain muzzle control

Shooter:	66 year old male	Victim:	Self
Hunting Equipment:	Handgun	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	Mason	Hunter Orange:	Yes
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Unknown	Date of Incident:	11/18/2019

Shooter was walking to his blind with his handgun drawn for his safety. When putting the handgun in his shoulder holster the firearm discharged and struck the shooter just above his left elbow.

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.



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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.