

2012 TEXAS HUNTING INCIDENTS ANALYSIS



Federal Aid Project
W-104-S



For more information about hunting accidents/incidents
or the hunter education program in Texas, call (512) 389-8142

TEXAS HUNTING INCIDENT PROFILE

- Violated a cardinal rule of hunter safety – incidents were preventable
- Average age in the twenties
- Hunted deer with rifle; hog with handgun/rifle; or dove/quail with shotgun
- Was **not** under the influence of alcohol
- Did not attend a hunter education (safety) course or program
- Did not wear any type of hunter orange clothing
- Was situated in or around vehicle
- Sustained a non-fatal injury
- If not self-inflicted – incident was a caused by lack of judgment or skill
- Had over 10 years of hunting experience
- If self-inflicted – handled firearm carelessly; firearm fell
- Distance of muzzle to wound was within 50 yards, mostly within 10 yards
- Victim was in light to open cover with clear visibility (weather)
- Incident occurred towards dusk; fatigue a factor
- Incident occurred on weekend during September or November



2012 Significant Factors

- Fatalities up by three from 2011
- Swinging on Game incidents up from 2011
- Dove incidents at four-year high
- Incidents involving those under 40 up from 2010 and 2011
- Fewer hunter education graduates in the incident data
- Self-inflicted accidents down significantly
- Number of alcohol incidents down

**HUNTING INCIDENT DATA (1966-2012) - Mandatory Hunter Education
INCIDENT PER LICENSES SOLD IN TEXAS**

CALENDAR YEAR	HUNTER ACCIDENTS	HUNTING LICENSES SOLD	ACCIDENTS PER 100,000 LICENSES	STUDENTS CERTIFIED	DEFERRALS SOLD
1966	81	644,653	12.6	-	
1967	93	797,846	11.7	-	
1968	105	854,693	12.3	-	
1969	92	895,593	10.3	-	
1970	72	935,793	7.7	-	
1971	92	978,285	9.4	-	
1972	85	966,332	8.8	2,119	
1973	80	1,011,963	7.9	4,314	
1974	68	1,037,925	6.6	6,094	
1975	77	1,051,834	7.3	8,531	
1976	63	1,050,349	6.0	10,043	
1977	81	1,080,530	7.5	11,298	
1978	83	1,091,794	7.6	10,890	
1979	53	1,093,716	4.8	10,775	
1980	69	1,160,375	5.9	12,166	
1981	72	1,174,023	6.1	13,187	
1982	97	1,216,032	8.0	13,323	
1983	80	1,325,474	6.0	14,131	
1984	60	1,140,174	5.3	13,052	
1985	72	1,100,991	6.5	11,284	
1986	68	1,162,785	5.8	11,195	
1987	81	1,189,566	6.8	8,611	
1988	70	1,189,000	5.9	18,043	
1989	78	1,193,000	6.5	36,708	
1990	53	1,132,917	4.7	24,590	
1991	81	1,103,903	7.3	28,682	
1992	62	1,053,063	5.9	25,453	

1993	58	1,077,055	5.4	26,942	
1994	51	1,083,227	4.7	34,972	
1995	40	1,060,000	3.8	31,215	
1996	31	990,000	3.1	24,998	
1997	51	960,000	5.3	30,625	
1998	40	1,011,500	3.9	31,052	
1999	44	1,010,455	4.3	37,775	
2000	52	1,145,000	4.5	39,049	
2001	43	1,076,159	4.0	28,062	
2002	35	1,024,495	3.4	37,847	
2003	44	1,082,225	4.1	33,769	
2004	29	1,091,178	2.7	31,171	
2005	31	1,082,593	2.9	31,442	
2006	32	1,115,772	2.9	29,532	
2007	30	1,112,099	2.7	30,960	
2008	26	993,533	2.6	32,308	
2009	29	1,011,936	2.9	43,880	12,545
2010	25	1,141,924	2.2	41,785	13,997
2011	23	1,165,248	2.0	43,645	15,101
2012	25	1,155,542	2.2	45,719	15,438

TOTALS 2,807 59,706,550 981,237

- **AVERAGE PRIOR TO MANDATORY HUNTER EDUCATION - 7.5 per 100,000 hunting licenses issued.**
- **AVERAGE AFTER MANDATORY HUNTER EDUCATION - 2.95 per 100,000 hunting licenses issued.**

TEXAS HUNTING INCIDENTS 1966-2012 (Shaded: Mandatory Hunter Education)

CALENDAR YEAR	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL
1966	28	53	81
1967	23	70	93
1968	37	68	105
1969	24	68	92
1970	19	53	72
1971	24	68	92
1972	30	55	85
1973	22	58	80
1974	16	52	68
1975	11	66	77
1976	11	52	63
1977	17	64	81
1978	20	63	83
1979	10	43	53
1980	13	56	69
1981	19	53	72
1982	23	74	97
1983	17	63	80
1984	21	39	60
1985	15	57	72
1986	13	55	68
1987	12	69	81
1988	12	58	70
1989	12	66	78
1990	8	45	53
1991	13	68	81
1992	6	56	62
1993	6	52	58

1994	5	46	51
1995	4	36	40
1996	2	29	31
1997	8	43	51
1998	3	37	40
1999	6	38	44
2000	8	44	52
2001	3	40	43
2002	3	32	35
2003	2	42	44
2004	4	25	29
2005	2	29	31
2006	4	28	32
2007	4	26	30
2008	6	20	26
2009	3	26	29
2010	4	21	25
2011	2	21	23
2012	5	20	25

TEXAS 2012 HUNTING INCIDENT TOTALS

INCIDENTS	2009					2010			
	2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012
Total	29	25	23	25	HUNTER JUDGMENT				
Fatal	3	4	2	5	Victim out of sight of shooter/moved into line of fire	2	1	3	2
Non-fatal	26	21	21	20	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	4	7	2	6
SHOOTER'S AGE	Percentage in parenthesis (%)				Victim mistaken for game	0	1	2	0
	0-9	0	0	0	1 (4)	TOTAL	6	9	7
10-19	8 (28)	7 (28)	4 (17)	8 (32)	SKILL/APTITUDE				
20-29	5 (17)	5 (20)	1 (4)	6 (24)	Loading/unloading gun	0	1	0	3
30-39	6 (21)	2 (8)	2 (9)	4 (16)	Improper crossing	0	1	0	0
40-49	3 (10)	2 (8)	6 (27)	4 (16)	Careless handling	12	4	6	5
50-59	4 (14)	5 (20)	5 (22)	0	Dropped firearm	2	1	0	1
60 & over	3 (10)	3 (12)	4 (17)	0	Shooter stumbled/fell	1	1	0	2
Unknown	0	1 (4)	1 (4)	2 (8)	Careless Bow Handling	0	0	1	0
					TOTAL	15	8	7	11
EQUIPMENT	Percentage in parenthesis (%)				SAFETY				
Rifles	16 (55)	8 (32)	11 (48)	11 (44)	Removing/placing firearm in vehicle	1	1	1	0
Shotguns	11 (38)	16 (64)	9 (39)	11 (44)	Discharge of firearm in/on vehicle	6	2	5	2
Handguns	2 (7)	1 (4)	2 (9)	3 (12)	Improper Crossing of an obstacle; Walking with loaded firearm	0	1	0	2
Muzzleloader	0	0	0	0	Horseplay	0	1	2	2
Bow	0	0	1 (4)	0	TOTAL	7	5	8	6
VIOLATED GAME LAW	12 (41)	7 (28)	5 (22)	7 (28)					
SELF-INFLECTED	17 (59)	13 (52)	11 (48)	6 (24)	ANIMAL HUNTED	Percentage in parenthesis (%)			
ALCOHOL OR DRUGS A FACTOR	0	1	4	0	Dove	4 (14)	7 (28)	3 (13)	9 (36)
					Deer	6 (21)	2 (8)	3 (13)	4 (16)
SHOOTER COMPLETED HUNTER ED	11 (38)	6 (24)	4 (17)	8 (32)	Rabbit/Hare	2 (7)	1 (4)	2 (9)	0
					Feral Hog/Peccary	6 (21)	7 (28)	8 (35)	5 (20)
MISC					Quail/Pheasant	2 (7)	3 (12)	1 (4)	0
					Turkey	2 (7)	0	1 (4)	0
					Ducks/Geese	1 (3)	2 (8)	1 (4)	2 (8)
					Coyote	2 (7)	0	0	0
Ricochet	0	1	0	1	Squirrel/Prairie Dog	1 (3)	1 (4)	2 (9)	0
Obstruction in Barrel and Faulty Equipment	1	2	1	0	Nongame birds/snake	3 (10)	2 (8)	0	3 (12)
TOTAL	1	3	1	1	Raccoon/Opossum	0	0	2 (9)	2 (8)

HUNTING INCIDENT: An accident/incident resulting from a discharge of a firearm or bow while hunting, which causes the injury or death of any person(s).

2012 FATAL INCIDENTS FIREARM/BOW HUNTING RELATED (A)*

* A. Firearm/Bow & Hunting Related--An accident/incident resulting from the discharge of a firearm or bow while hunting, which causes the injury or death of any person(s).

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self- Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
4-2	Bexar	36/M	Rifle	Opossum	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter shot at an opossum after dark and did not see that his friend was in the line of fire.					
<i>Prevention</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; never fire from behind others; complete hunter education.					
11-10	Polk	42/M	Rifle	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was unloading his rifle at the rear of his truck after hunting. Gun discharged through the rear of the vehicle, striking victim in lower back as he sat in the cab of the truck					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; complete hunter education.					
11-17	Lampasas	47/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was standing outside passenger door of vehicle. He had propped firearm against platform mounted on vehicle. Rifle slipped and discharged, first hitting his finger as he reached for falling gun, and then firearm hit the ground and discharged a second time hitting him in the groin. No visible exit wound.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; unload firearms before setting them against a stable rest; complete hunter education.					
12-28	Lamar	9/M	Rifle	Turkey Vulture	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Nine year old shooter and 12 year old victim were hunting together in a field. Shooter took aim at a flying bird that was overhead and behind the victim. The shooter stumbled and the gun discharged during the fall when the muzzle was level with the victim. The .22 bullet entered the right side of his chest and exited to the left side of the upper back.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always maintain muzzle control; make sure to identify the target clearly and what is in front of and behind the target before raising the sporting arm for a shot; know where others are positioned at all times; complete hunter education.					
12-30	Cameron	13/M	Rifle	Unknown	No	No
<i>Comments</i>	Shooter and victim were in the backyard. Shooter was shooting at birds. Shooter said the gun was not loaded or he stumbled. Bullet struck victim in the head, killing him.					
<i>Prevention</i>	Always maintain muzzle control; make sure to identify the target clearly and what is in front of and behind the target before raising the sporting arm for a shot; know where others are positioned at all times; complete hunter education.					

2012 NON-FATAL INCIDENTS FIREARM/BOW HUNTING RELATED (A)

A. Firearm/Bow & Hunting Related--An accident/incident resulting from the discharge of a firearm or bow while hunting, which causes the injury or death of any person(s).

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
1-5	Bowie	12/M	Rifle	Raccoon	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was an observer who picked up rifle to put the safety on after hunter had laid it down to retrieve the animal. Rifle discharged hitting hunter in both legs.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Treat every firearm as if is loaded; unload firearm when no longer expecting to take a shot; handle firearms carefully; complete hunter education.					
1-6	Johnson	36/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter propped loaded shotgun against a fence to use the restroom. Victim was shot in the leg when the dog knocked over the shotgun.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; unload firearms before setting them against a stable rest; use the safety; complete hunter education.					
1-14	Hopkins	27/M	Shotgun	Duck	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter hid shotgun under a duck blind when he thought a game warden was driving up because he was hunting without a license. When he realized it was not a game warden, he carelessly picked up the loaded shotgun which discharged hitting victim in the legs.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if is loaded; handle firearms carefully; use the safety; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; complete hunter education; obey the law.					
4-29	Karnes	Unk.	Rifle	Feral Hog	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Group of four shooters using a deer blind to hunt feral hog. Several shot as hogs approached, hitting victim who was in another deer blind.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; make sure to identify the target clearly and what is in front of and behind the target before raising the sporting arm for a shot; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
6/10	Gillespie	26/M	Rifle	Snake/Turtle	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was reloading rifle while seated in truck cab. Rifle slipped and discharged, hitting him in the shoulder.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Treat every firearm as if it is loaded; control the muzzle at all times; complete hunter education.					
7-13	Donley	23/M	Handgun	Feral Hog	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter placed revolver with all six rounds into oversized holster; revolver discharged and wounded him in leg.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Handle firearms carefully; unload firearm when no longer expecting to take a shot; use the safety; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
7-19	Lavaca	18/M	Handgun	Feral Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was startled by group of hogs which caused him to trip and discharge his revolver. The .22 caliber bullet shot at a hog from his vehicle's door, using the window frame as a rest. The bullet from his .270 rifle struck him in his leg.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle at all times; use the safety; complete hunter education.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
------	--------	----------------------	---------	---------------	----------------	--------------------------------

9-1	Gillespie	Unk	Shotgun	Dove	No	Unk
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was sitting on a berm of a stock tank hunting. The rest of the group of hunters were across the stock tank and shot at dove that had flown between them and victim.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; make sure to identify the target clearly and what is in front of and behind the target before raising the sporting arm for a shot; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
9-1	Taylor	17/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter discharged his shotgun at doves and towards victim who had pulled up to watch the hunters. The shot struck the truck and victim's mouth.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Never fire across property lines or towards another property within the effective range of the firearm; obey the law; make sure to identify the target clearly and what is in front of and behind the target before raising the sporting arm for a shot; complete hunter education.					
9-1	Mitchell	22/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter shot at dove over stock tank. Victim had shot a dove and walked to retrieve a downed dove which put him in line of fire. Shot struck victim in face.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; make sure to identify the target clearly and what is in front of and behind the target before raising the sporting arm for a shot; complete hunter education.					
9-1	Gillespie	36/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes (KS)
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was dove hunting with others. He was positioned about 50 yards behind the victim who was near a stock tank. Shooter shot at dove that flew between him and victim. Shot stuck victim in the forehead.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; complete hunter education.					
9-2	Concho	11/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and eight year old victim were hunting across from one another in a corn field. Victim was retrieving a downed bird when shooter attempted to engage another bird. Shot struck victim in torso.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; make sure to identify the target clearly and what is in front of and behind the target before raising the sporting arm for a shot; know where others are positioned at all times; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
9-3	Mason	43/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim went to retrieve a downed bird when shooter fired at incoming dove. Shot peppered victim across torso, arms and legs.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
9-10	Guadalupe	16/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter/Victim was sitting with one leg bent and the other extended, and with shotgun resting across his lap, loaded, cocked and muzzle pointed toward his extended foot. He said the shotgun suddenly went off, striking him in the foot. He thought the gun went off because it got too hot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle at all times; use the safety; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
9-10	Cottle	43/M	Rifle	Feral Hog	No	No

Comments: Shooter was sitting on ice chest in pick up bed; victim and passenger sitting in cab of truck. Shooter took aim at feral hog using top of the pickup cab as shooting bench. When rifle discharged, projectile entered from top of cab. Victim obtained minor injuries on the back of his head from metal shrapnel.

Prevention: Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions and know where everyone is positioned at all times; never hunt from/on a vehicle; handle firearms carefully; recognize that muzzle is lower than scope and cannot be placed behind an object or on the ground; complete hunter education.

11-23	Young	15/M	Handgun	Deer	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter's revolver failed to fire and discharged as shooter attempted to unload it.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle at all times; use the safety; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
12-8	Colorado	33/M	Shotgun	Ducks/Geese	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter laid loaded shotgun with safety activated on ground to take bathroom break. Hunting dog stepped on gun causing it to discharge. Shot struck hunter in ankle.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; unload firearms before setting them against a stable rest; use the safety; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
12-14	Jim Wells	27/M	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was hunting from elevated blind; victim was hunting from a ground blind. Shooter shot at a deer approximately 100 yards from his blind. Bullet apparently struck the ground near the deer and ricocheted down range, entering the blind and striking the victim. Victim received wounds in hand and groin.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Know where others are positioned at all times; make sure to identify the target clearly and what is in front of and behind the target before raising the sporting arm for a shot; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
12-22	Llano	11/M	Rifle	Feral Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and two other juveniles were given one 30-30 and told to go hunt for hogs and deer. Shooter stopped to use cell phone and attempted to eject all six rounds from the rifle, but failed to remove the last one from the chamber. Shooter pointed the rifle at the victim and shot him in the thigh, shattering his femur. Shooter insists it was an accident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; always point muzzle in a safe direction; communicate with hunting companions and know where everyone is positioned at all times; complete hunter education.					
12-23	Presidio	21/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	While attempting to cross a fence, shooter rested his loaded shotgun against the fence without the safety on. The shotgun slipped as he tried to cross the fence. He reached for the gun as it slipped and the shot struck him in the left hand causing severe injury.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; unload firearms before setting them against a stable rest; use the safety; complete hunter education.					

2012 Non-Firearm/Bow Related (B)

B. Non-Firearm/Bow Related--Accidents/incidents while hunting, not involving the discharge of a firearm or bow, which causes injury or death of any person(s)

Type	Age/Gender/ Firearm	Fatal?	Comments
	None		

2012 Non-Hunting Related (C)

C. Non-Hunting Related--Other reported accidents/incidents resulting from the discharge of a firearm/bow, which causes the injury or death of any person(s), other than while hunting.

Type	Age/Gender/ Firearm	Fatal?	Comments
Dropped firearm; firearm fell from unsecured rest	(45/M) Handgun	No	Shooter was removing holster; strap on holster was not fastened and pistol hammer was cocked. The 9mm handgun fell from holster discharging single bullet; hit both shooter and youth standing nearby.
Careless handling of firearm	1 (15/M) Handgun	No	Shooter accidentally discharged .22 revolver hitting himself.
Dropped firearm	1 (25/F) Handgun	No	Shooter dropped .22 handgun and

* A. Firearm/Bow & Hunting Related--An accident/incident resulting from the discharge of a firearm or bow while hunting, which causes the injury or death of any person(s).

** B. Non-Firearm/Bow Related--Accidents/incidents while hunting, not involving the discharge of a firearm or bow, which causes injury or death of any person(s).

*** C. Non-Hunting Related--Other reported accidents/incidents resulting from the discharge of a firearm/bow, which causes the injury or death of any person(s), other than while hunting.



Life's better outside.®

4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

© 2013 TPWD PWD RP K0700-0141 (04/13)

Dispersal of this publication conforms with Texas State Documents Depository Law, and it is available at Texas State Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries.

TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies and is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and state anti-discrimination laws which prohibit discrimination the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or facility, or need more information, please contact Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.