

Texas Hunting
Accident Report
2020

TEXAS

PARKS &

WILDLIFE



TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT DATA (1966-2020)

* *Voluntary* * Hunter Education Program 1972-1987

Calendar Year	Fatalities	Non-Fatal	Accidents	Hunting Licenses Sold	Accidents/ 100,000 Licenses	Fatalities/ 100,000 Licenses	Students Certified
1966	28	53	81	644,653	12.6	4.3	-
1967	23	70	93	797,846	11.7	2.9	-
1968	37	68	105	854,693	12.3	4.3	-
1969	24	68	92	895,593	10.3	2.7	-
1970	19	53	72	935,793	7.7	2.0	-
1971	24	68	92	978,285	9.4	2.5	-
1972	30	55	85	966,332	8.8	3.1	2,119
1973	22	58	80	1,011,963	7.9	2.2	4,314
1974	16	52	68	1,037,925	6.6	1.5	6,094
1975	11	66	77	1,051,834	7.3	1.0	8,531
1976	11	52	63	1,050,349	6	1.0	10,043
1977	17	64	81	1,080,530	7.5	1.6	11,298
1978	20	63	83	1,091,794	7.6	1.8	10,890
1979	10	43	53	1,093,716	4.8	0.9	10,775
1980	13	56	69	1,160,375	5.9	1.1	12,166
1981	19	53	72	1,174,023	6.1	1.6	13,187
1982	23	74	97	1,216,032	8.0	1.9	13,323
1983	17	63	80	1,325,474	6.0	1.3	14,131
1984	21	39	60	1,140,174	5.3	1.8	13,052
1985	15	57	72	1,100,991	6.5	1.4	11,284
1986	13	55	68	1,162,785	5.8	1.1	11,195
1987	12	69	81	1,189,566	6.8	1.0	8,611
Voluntary	425	1299	1724	22,960,726	7.5	1.85	161,013



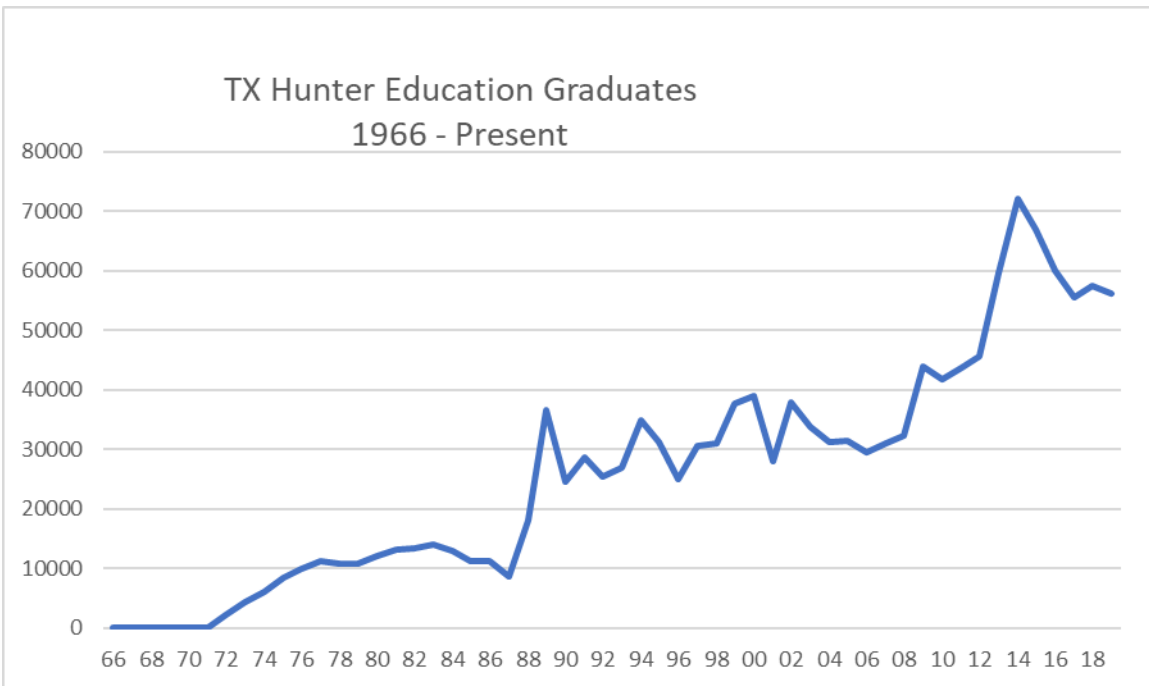
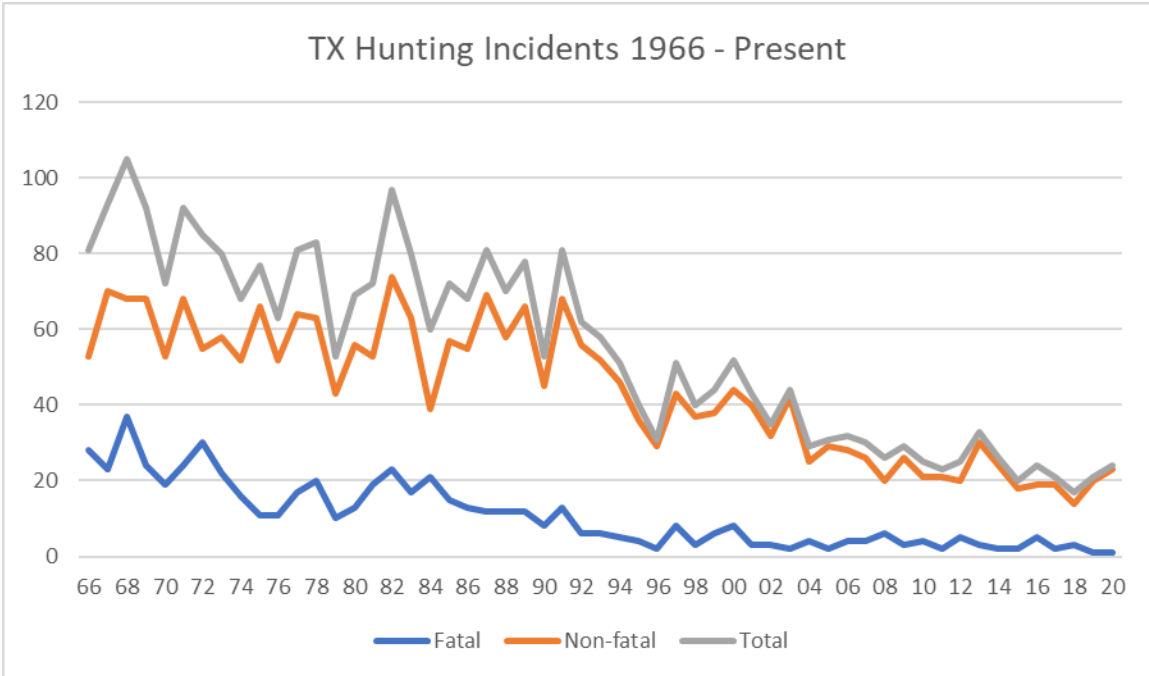
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* *Mandatory* * Hunter Education Program 1988 - Present

Calendar Year	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Accidents	Hunting Licenses Sold	Accidents/ 100,000 Licenses	Fatalities/ 100,000 Licenses	Students Certified	Deferrals Sold
1988	12	58	70	1,189,000	5.9	1.0	18,043	-
1989	12	66	78	1,193,000	6.5	1.0	36,708	-
1990	8	45	53	1,132,917	4.7	0.7	24,590	-
1991	13	68	81	1,103,903	7.3	1.2	28,682	-
1992	6	56	62	1,053,063	5.9	0.6	25,453	-
1993	6	52	58	1,077,055	5.4	0.6	26,942	-
1994	5	46	51	1,083,227	4.7	0.5	34,972	-
1995	4	36	40	1,060,000	3.8	0.4	31,215	-
1996	2	29	31	990,000	3.1	0.2	24,998	-
1997	8	43	51	960,000	5.3	0.8	30,625	-
1998	3	37	40	1,011,500	3.9	0.3	31,052	-
1999	6	38	44	1,010,455	4.3	0.6	37,775	-
2000	8	44	52	1,145,000	4.5	0.7	39,049	-
2001	3	40	43	1,076,159	4.0	0.3	28,062	-
2002	3	32	35	1,024,495	3.4	0.3	37,847	-
2003	2	42	44	1,082,225	4.1	0.2	33,769	-
2004	4	25	29	1,091,178	2.7	0.4	31,171	-
2005	2	29	31	1,082,593	2.9	0.2	31,442	-
2006	4	28	32	1,115,772	2.9	0.4	29,532	-
2007	4	26	30	1,112,099	2.7	0.4	30,960	-
2008	6	20	26	993,533	2.6	0.6	32,308	-
2009	3	26	29	1,011,936	2.9	0.3	43,880	12,545
2010	4	21	25	1,141,924	2.2	0.4	41,785	13,997
2011	2	21	23	1,165,248	2.0	0.2	43,645	15,101
2012	5	20	25	1,155,542	2.2	0.4	45,719	15,438
2013	3	30	33	1,227,025	2.7	0.2	59,597	17,257
2014	2	24	26	1,284,933	2.0	0.2	72,026	11,898
2015	2	18	20	1,259,259	1.6	0.2	66,961	14,025
2016	5	19	24	1,271,368	1.9	0.4	60,115	14,371
2017	2	19	21	1,248,450	1.7	0.2	55,507	12,113
2018	3	14	17	1,235,590	1.4	0.2	57,440	11,004
2019	1	20	21	1,244,526	1.7	0.1	56,209	9,036
2020	1	23	24	1,301,289	1.8	0.1	52,912	8,020
Mandatory	153	1,116	1,269	37,134,264	3.4	0.41	1,302,526	154,805
TOTAL	578	2,415	2,993	60,094,990	4.98	0.96	1,463,539	162,825

- **HUNTING INCIDENT RATE (AVE.) DURING VOLUNTARY PROGRAM - 7.5 per 100,000 hunting licenses issued.**
- **HUNTING INCIDENT RATE (AVE.) DURING MANDATORY PROGRAM - 3.4 per 100,000 hunting licenses issued.**



Texas Hunting Accidents 2016 – 2020

* TYPE "A" Incidents - resulting from a discharge of a firearm or bow while hunting, which causes the injury or death of any person(s)

INCIDENTS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	24	21	17	21	24
Fatal	5	2	3	1	1
Non-fatal	19	19	14	20	23

SHOOTER'S AGE					
0-9 yrs. of age	0	0	1	0	0
10-19	5	7	3	5	5
20-29	3	5	4	3	7
30-39	4	3	3	2	2
40-49	3	0	2	2	2
50-59	4	3	2	2	2
60 & over	3	2	1	2	4
Unknown	2	1	1	5	2
	24	21	17	21	24

SHOOTER'S EQUIPMENT					
Rifles	6	5	7	6	8
Shotguns	14	13	7	14	14
Handguns	3	3	3	1	2
Muzzleloader	0	0	0	0	0
Bow/Air Gun	1	0	0	0	0
	24	21	17	21	24

ADDITIONAL FACTS					
	Percentage in parenthesis (%)				
Violated Game Law	5 (21)	9 (43)	3 (18)	5 (24)	9 (38)
Self-Inflicted	6 (25)	8 (38)	6 (35)	8 (38)	10 (42)
Alcohol a Factor	2 (8)	1 (5)	2 (12)	2 (10)	0 (0)
Completed Hunt Ed	10 (42)	5 (24)	8(47)	6 (28)	11 (46)
ONLINE-ONLY HE	3 (13)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (12)
Military Exempt	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (4)	0 (0)

Incident profile over time:

- Incidents were highly preventable thru proper training.
- Over half had not completed hunter education training.
- Victims were not wearing hunter orange clothing.
- Most incidents due to hunter judgment errors; carelessness.
- Most shooters had over 10 years of hunting experience.
- Most shooters were *not* under the influence of alcohol.
- If self-inflicted, shooters handled firearms carelessly.
- Distance of muzzle to wound was typically under 15 yards.
- Incident occurred towards dusk; fatigue a possible factor.

Significant factors in 2020

- A continued wave of faulty equipment/obstructions in barrel incidents and one ricochet, which tend to be rare.
- SWINGING ON GAME OUT OF SAFE ZONE led the list of incidents with 8 (33%); Other JUDGEMENT with 4 (17%).
- DOVE hunting incidents, with 11, continue to lead animal hunted category with HOG incidents back up to 6 (25%).
- SHOTGUNS were used in 70% of incidents; handguns two.
- 11 HUNTER EDUCATION graduates were involved in hunting incidents; three (3) who took online-only courses.
- No incidents involved ALCOHOL, and nine (38%) involved LAW VIOLATIONS, up 4 incidents from 2019.
- There were five non-fatal TYPE B incidents (See page 10) involving falls from elevated stands, the number one hunting incident in North America.

MAIN CONTRIBUTING FACTORS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
I. HUNTER JUDGMENT					
Victim out of sight / moved into line of fire	5	3	4	3	3
Victim hit by shooter swinging on game	5	5	3	7	8
Victim mistaken for game	2	2	0	0	1
SUBTOTAL	12	10	7	10	12

II. SKILL/APTITUDE					
Trigger caught on object	0	0	0	0	0
Loading/Unloading gun	1	1	3	0	0
Improper crossing	1	0	0	0	0
Careless handling	6	7	5	3	6
Dropped firearm	0	1	0	0	0
Shooter stumbled/fell	1	0	1	1	0
Careless Bow Handling	0	0	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	9	9	9	4	6

III. SAFETY					
Removing/placing firearm in vehicle	0	1	0	0	0
Discharge of firearm in/on vehicle/fell from insecure rest	1	0	1	2	2
Running or entering/exiting stand with loaded firearm	1	0	0	0	0
Horseplay	0	0	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	2	1	1	2	2

IV. OTHER					
Ricochet	0	0	0	1	1
Obstruction in Barrel or Faulty Equipment	1	0	0	3	3
Mixed Ammo/Incorrect Substitution	0	1	0	1	0
SUBTOTAL	1	1	0	5	4
GRAND TOTAL	24	21	17	21	24

ANIMAL HUNTED					
Dove	7	8	1	13	11
Deer	3	2	2	4	1
Rabbit/Hare	1	1	0	0	2
Feral Hog/Peccary	2	4	8	2	6
Quail/Pheasant	4	2	3	1	0
Turkey	0	0	0	0	1
Ducks/Geese	2	2	1	0	1
Coyote/Bobcat	1	0	0	0	1
Squirrel/Prairie Dog	1	0	1	0	0
Nongame birds/Snake	1	2	0	0	1
Furbearers/Raccoons	1	0	0	0	0
Exotic	1	0	1	1	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	24	21	17	21	24

2020 FATAL ACCIDENTS - FIREARM/BOW HUNTING RELATED (A)*

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

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
4-15	Jack	23/M	Rifle	Turkey	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Mistaken for Game - Three hunters spotted a turkey and decided to go after it. They split up after watching it fly over a tree line. Towards dusk, the shooter and one of his friends spotted a dark object about 60-65 yards away down a power line. Shooter mistook the object for a turkey and fired three shots from his .223 rifle, two striking the victim in his upper left arm and chest.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; be sure of target before pulling the trigger; wear blaze orange to be seen especially when still hunting deer and turkeys with rifles; communicate with hunting companions " <i>plan the hunt - hunt the plan</i> "; apply what is learned in hunter ed.					

2020 NON-FATAL INCIDENTS - FIREARM/BOW HUNTING RELATED (A)*

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

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
1-16	Gonzales	40/M	Shotgun	Hog	No	Yes (CA)
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire - Seven hunters, mostly non-residents, were walking through the brush, about 30-40 yards apart, hunting hogs in 'European' / drive fashion. As hogs passed through the line of hunters, shooter swung and shot victim who was positioned in the line-of-fire during the quick action. Victim's thumb was shot off.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and maintain a safe zone of fire at all times; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; make sure to identify the target clearly; identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
2-1	Throckmorton	73/M	Rifle	Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Discharge of Firearm in/on Vehicle (Helicopter) - Shooter was hunting hogs from a helicopter when he reached over to retrieve/load another magazine into his loaded rifle. He carelessly handled and discharged the firearm while the muzzle was pointed at his right foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; take great care when loading/unloading a firearm, especially if hunting from a moving aircraft; complete hunter education, even if not required.					
2-28	Cochran	10/M	Rifle	Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Faulty Equipment/Ammo - Young shooter was struck by shrapnel and burns to his right bicep/forearm from a .243 bullet/casing which discharged while the case was crushed inside the chamber. (See COVER photo.)					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always maintain and visually check your firearms and other equipment before use; carry the correct ammunition/loads for your firearm and ensure there are no obstructions in the barrel; when firearm is not operating correctly, take it to a reputable gunsmith prior to going afield; carry a field cleaning kit for your firearm; complete hunter education, even if not required.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
3-8	Freestone	38/M	Shotgun	Coyote	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Ricochet - Victim was struck in the head by a single buckshot pellet that ricocheted off coyote or a nearby rock. Shooter and victim were positioned 47 yards apart when the shooter shot at a coyote behind him. Victim was sitting at about a 45-degree angle from the shooter.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and maintain a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; know what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; never shoot at hard, flat surfaces or water with rifles or shotguns using buckshot/slugs; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
4-12	Terry	24/M	Rifle	Rabbit	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Careless Handling - Non-U.S. citizens were hunting rabbits at night. Shooter was exiting the vehicle, carelessly handling his .223 bolt-action rifle. Muzzle was pointed at victim's left leg (calf) upon discharge.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload the firearm when no longer hunting, especially when loading/unloading firearms into/from vehicle; be in a secure position prior to shooting and keep the safety 'on' and finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot; handle firearms carefully; obey the law by completing hunter education prior to hunting in Texas.					
6-14	Crockett	58/M	Rifle	Rabbit	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Faulty Equipment/Ammo - Shooter was struck by shrapnel to his left bicep from a .17 caliber rifle upon discharge					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always maintain a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are always positioned; identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
7-25	Coleman	16/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Discharge of Firearm in/on Vehicle - Shooter and victim were hunting hogs and raccoons illegally from a public road. Shooter exited vehicle and shot while firearm was on top of vehicle. The .223 bullet/fragment ricocheted through the vehicle and struck victim in the back of his head.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction and maintain a safe zone of fire at all times; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; be sure to identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; obey the laws by completing hunter education and not hunting from public roads.					
8-27	Stephens	68/M	Handgun	Snake	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim Out of Sight of Shooter - Victim was peppered with "rat shot" to her right arm, leg, and hand, while sitting in a utility vehicle. Shooter had positioned himself on the other side of a tree to dispatch a rattlesnake. He told his wife and friend to drive out of the way, but, unbeknownst to him, he still discharged his .45 caliber handgun towards their new direction behind a brush line.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always maintain a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; make sure to identify the target clearly; identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; complete hunter education, even if not required.					
9-1	McLennan	25/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Careless Handling - While hunting doves, victim's hunting companion set her loaded shotgun on tailgate. Shooter picked it up and carelessly discharged it while muzzle was resting on his foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload the firearm when no longer hunting, especially when loading/unloading firearms into/from vehicle; be in a secure position prior to shooting and keep the safety 'on' and finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot; handle firearms carefully; obey the law by completing hunter education prior to hunting in Texas.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
9-1	Tarrant	62/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire – Texas Game Warden was checking dove hunters when she was struck by three pellets to the face, arm, and leg. The shooter illegally fired his shotgun towards a low-flying dove from across a public road/adjacent property at about 35 yards.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always maintain a safe zone of fire; know where others are positioned; be sure to identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; obey the law by not shooting towards or over neighboring properties; complete hunter education, even if not required.					
9-2	Tom Green	UNK/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim Out of Sight of Shooter – While jumping on the trampoline in his back yard, the 13-year old victim was peppered by pellets from a neighboring property. One pellet penetrated his skin in his abdomen. At the time of the investigation, it is unknown where shot came from on nearby property.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always maintain a safe zone of fire; know where others are positioned at all times; be sure to identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; obey the law by not shooting towards or over neighboring properties; complete hunter education, even if not required.					
9-4	Runnels	55/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim Moved into Line of Fire – Victim had finished hunting and walked back to his vehicle. Upon returning to watch the rest of his party continue hunting, he moved from a tree line to in front of others shooting at doves. Pellets struck him in abdomen through to his upper thighs.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always maintain a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; wear orange while moving into/out of field; identify what is in front of and behind target before shooting; complete hunter education, even if not required.					
9-5	Hill	47/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Careless Handling – Shooter carelessly fired his shotgun towards his right foot as he attempted to grab it and shoot at doves.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; be in a secure position prior to shooting and keep the safety 'on' and finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot; handle firearms carefully; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
9-5	Runnels	18/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire – Shooter fired on low-flying dove outside of his safe zone and peppered both of his hunting companions with shot pellets from about 60-80 yards.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and maintain a safe zone of fire at all times; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
9-6	Cameron	15/F	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Obstruction in Barrel - Shooter was dove hunting when she slipped and fell on a muddy dike after retrieving a downed bird. She failed to notice the mud in the lower barrel of her over-and-under shotgun, and when she fired the next shot, the bottom barrel split, injuring her right forearm/wrist.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always unload and check your firearm anytime you fall or the muzzle comes in contact with soil, mud, snow, etc.; carry a field cleaning kit for your firearm; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
9-11	Briscoe	66/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	Yes (KS)
<i>Comments:</i>	Careless Handling - While hunting doves, shooter positioned the muzzle of his loaded shotgun on his foot. Shotgun discharged when shooter lost his balance sitting down into his tripod chair. He lost one of his toes because of the blast.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload firearm when not hunting, even when getting into position in a chair or blind; be in a secure position prior to shooting and keep the safety 'on' and finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot; handle firearms carefully; apply what is learned in hunter education.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
9-12	Starr	22/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Careless Handling – Shooter carelessly fired his shotgun towards his brother's thigh while attempting to reload his single-shot break-open shotgun.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; especially when reloading/loading firearms; be in a secure position prior to shooting and keep the safety 'on' and finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot; handle firearms carefully; obey the law by completing hunter education prior to hunting.					
9-14	Frio	24/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire – Shooter fired on low-flying dove outside of his safe zone and peppered his brother with shot pellets, striking victim from his face to his legs. Victim was between 30-50 yards away standing under a tree.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and maintain a safe zone of fire at all times; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; obey the laws by completing hunter education and hunting with the proper public land permits (Ritchie Public Area Unit #2378).					
10-8	Willacy	18/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire – Shooter fired at a dove outside of his safe zone and peppered his dad with shot pellets, striking victim in head and the right side of his body. Victim was about 40 yards away sitting on an ATV, after retrieving a downed bird.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and maintain a safe zone of fire at all times; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
10-14	Hidalgo	UNK/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire – Several hunters were hunting hogs in South Texas brush country. Shooter swung on moving hogs outside of his safe zone of fire and shot his friend, the bullet striking the victim over the left eyebrow. Investigation happened after the fact, and hunting party was uncooperative as to who shot the rifle. They also claimed the rifle was lost during the event.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and maintain a safe zone of fire at all times; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; make sure to identify the target clearly; identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; obey the law by completing hunter education prior to hunting.					
10-17	Comanche	21/M	Rifle	Hog	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire - Four hunters were hunting hogs at night with thermal scopes. Shooter swung on running hogs outside of his safe zone of fire and shot victim who was to shooter's immediate left. Bullet entered victim's right shoulder and fractured his humerus/clavicle/scapula.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and maintain a safe zone of fire at all times; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times, especially if hunting at night; make sure to identify the target clearly; identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
10-17	Bowie	25/M	Handgun	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Careless Handling – Shooter and his friend had returned from a bow hunt, but he was also carrying a holstered handgun. He carelessly fired handgun while removing it from holster on his belt and the bullet struck him his right thigh. Investigator noted that holster was too small for the shooter's handgun and it may have contributed to the trigger being exposed, when otherwise protected.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; holster firearm over an empty chamber while hunting, use the appropriate holster; be in a secure position prior to shooting and keep the safety 'on' and finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot; handle firearms carefully; obey the law by completing hunter education prior to hunting.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
12-27	Eastland	34/F	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire - Five hunters were lined up in a hunting blind with the shooter in the fourth position. Shooter swung at passing ducks outside of her safe zone of fire and shot her husband who was to her immediate right. Pellets entered victim's upper left arm					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and maintain a safe zone of fire at all times; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times, especially if hunting in tight quarters such as a duck blind; be sure to identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; apply what is learned in hunter education.					

2020 NON-FIREARM/BOW HUNTING RELATED (B) **

Type	Age/Gender	Fatal?	Comments
Arrow Cut 10-09-20	25/M	NO	Victim cut himself when his bow caught on a tree, swung back, and cut him below the elbow.
Tree Stand Fall 10-23-20	32/M	NO	Victim slipped while ascending and fell 15 feet, fracturing his left shoulder.
Heart Attack 11-7-20	63/M	YES	While attempting to recover a deer, victim fell and collapsed because of a heart attack.
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning 11-16-20	15/F	YES	Victim died from carbon monoxide poisoning due to a propane heater in an enclosed blind with no ventilation.

** **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).

2020 NON-HUNTING/FIREARM RELATED (C) ***

Type	Age/Gender /Firearm	Fatal?	Comments
Heart attack or careless handling 1-6-20	61/M Rifle	YES	Victim was found in a clearing with a rifle beside him and trauma from bullet wound to his chest and exiting his back. He was found face down with his arms under his body. It was unclear whether he might have had a heart attack, committed suicide, or was handling his firearm carelessly.
Careless Handling 12-29-19	40/M Rifle	NO	The 3-year old victim's dad, along with his mother, was teaching him and his 5-year old sister 'firearm safety'. They got muddy in the process, so when they returned to their camper, they removed their muddy clothes and the magazine from the loaded .22 caliber rifle (in the chamber). Ironically, the parents left the rifle in a chair and went inside camper to cook dinner. The youngsters went to handle the unaccompanied firearm, and the 3-year carelessly shot his sister in the upper left arm.

*** **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 (reported to TPWD Game Wardens)