

Texas Hunting Accident Report 2022

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE



HEVI-STEEL 310
#2 204/1-1
1-1/4oz #2

SUPER
XPERT HV
STEEL SHOT
3-1 1/8-2

XPERT HV
STEEL SHOT
3-1 1/8-2
SUPER

TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT DATA (1966-2022)

** 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

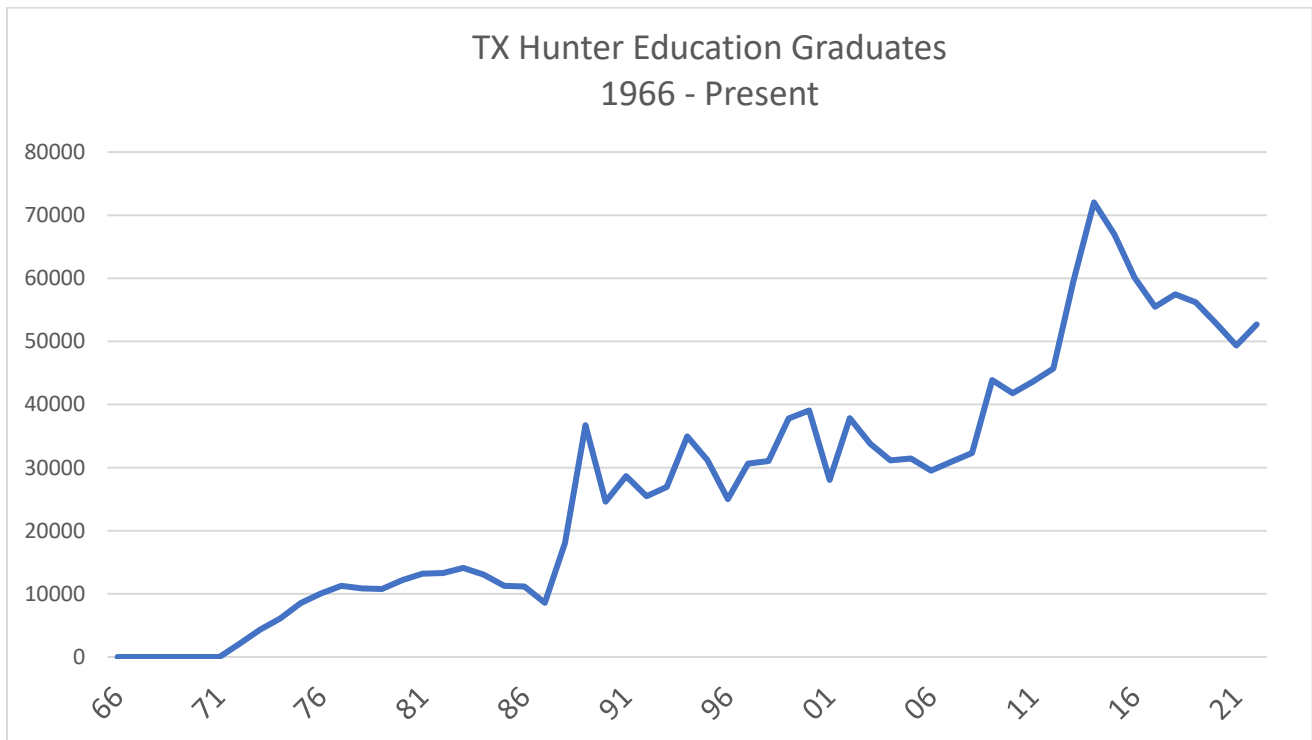
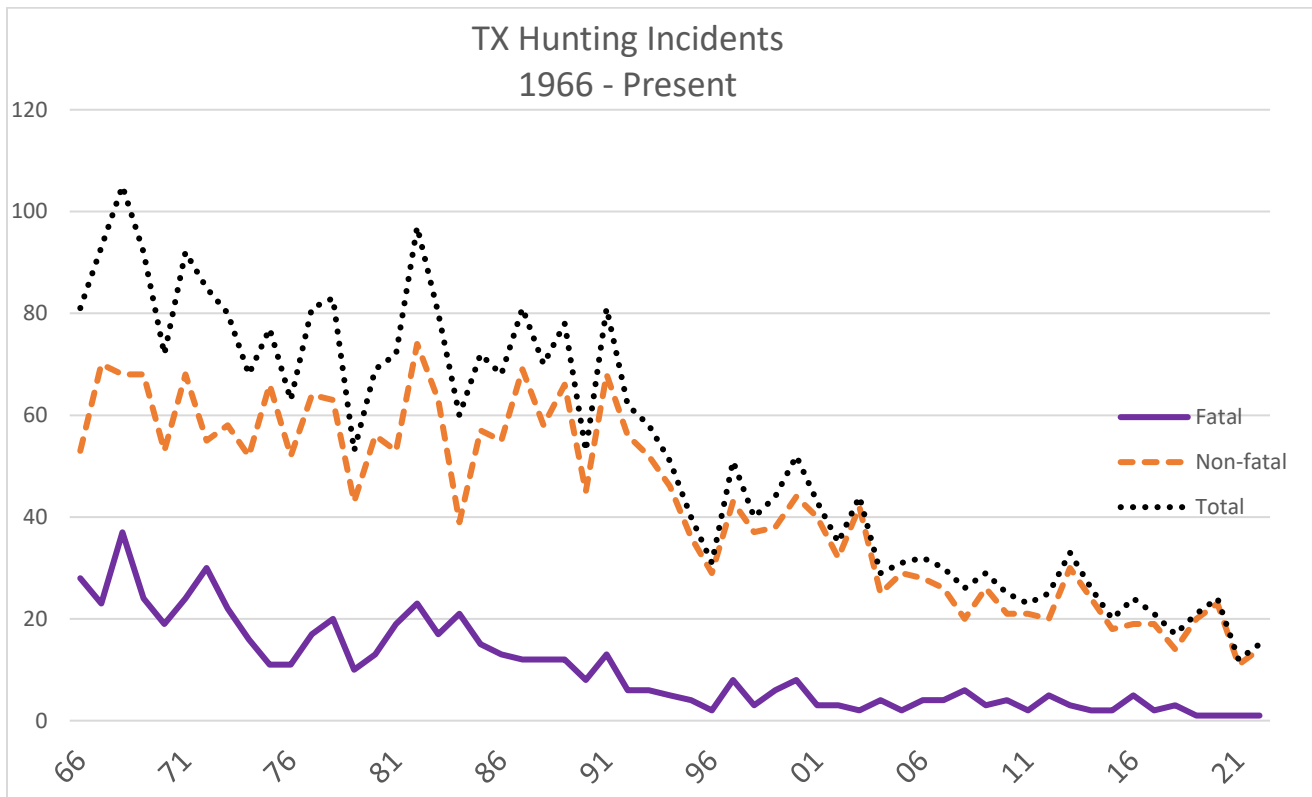


* *Mandatory* * Hunter Education Program 1988 - Present

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	0.24	57,440	11,004
2019	1	20	21	1,244,526	1.7	0.08	56,209	9,036
2020	1	23	24	1,301,289	1.8	0.08	52,912	8,020
2021	1	11	12	1,239,466	1.0	0.08	49,370	6,754
2022	1	14	15	1,214,728	1.2	0.08	52,706	6,445
Mandatory	155	1,141	1,296	39,588,458	3.3	0.39	1,404,602	168,004
TOTAL	580	2,440	3,020	62,549,184	4.83	0.93	1,565,615	168,004

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

➤ **HUNTING INCIDENT RATE (AVE.) DURING MANDATORY PROGRAM - 3.3 per 100,000** hunting licenses issued.



Texas Hunting Accidents 2017 - 2022

* 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	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fatal	3	1	1	1	1
Non-fatal	14	20	23	11	14
TOTAL	17	21	24	12	15

SHOOTER'S AGE					
0-9 yrs. of age	1	0	0	0	0
10-19	3	5	5	2	3
20-29	4	3	7	0	2
30-39	3	2	2	5	1
40-49	2	2	2	1	2
50-59	2	2	2	1	2
60 & over	1	2	4	2	4
Unknown	1	5	2	1	1
	17	21	24	12	15

SHOOTER'S EQUIPMENT					
Rifles	7	6	8	3	4
Shotguns	7	14	14	8	8
Handguns	3	1	2	1	2
Muzzleloader	0	0	0	0	0
Bow/Air Gun	0	0	0	0	1
	17	21	24	12	15

ADDITIONAL FACTS					
	Percentage in parenthesis (%)				
Violated Game Law	9 (43)	3 (18)	5 (18)	0 (0)	2 (13)
Self-Inflicted	8 (38)	6 (35)	8 (38)	2 (17)	7 (47)
Alcohol a Factor	1 (5)	2 (12)	2 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Completed Hunt Ed	8 (47)	6 (28)	11(46)	6 (50)	9 (60)
ONLINE-ONLY HE	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (17)	2 (13)
Military Exempt	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (4)	0 (0)	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 2022

- ANOTHER LOW YEAR – 2nd Lowest on record!
- Swinging on Game Outside Safe Zone led the list of incidents with 5 (33%), #1 'Hunter Judgement' cause
- Hunting incidents for hogs, especially at night, continue to be a SAFETY issue given lack of visibility and swinging rifle or pistol towards and firing at running targets.
- SHOTGUNS were used in 8 (53%) of the incidents.
- Nine (9) HUNTER EDUCATION graduates were involved in hunting incidents, two (2) who took online-only courses.
- Two (2) LAW VIOLATIONS recorded.
- There were two (2) TYPE B incidents – falls from trees stands, the number one hunting incident in North America.
- One crossbow incident – a first in history of incidents.

MAIN CONTRIBUTING FACTORS					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
I. HUNTER JUDGMENT					
Victim out of sight /moved into line of fire	4	3	3	0	0
Victim hit by shooter swinging on game	3	7	8	9	5
Victim mistaken for game	0	0	1	0	1
SUBTOTAL	7	10	12	9	6

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

III. SAFETY					
Removing/placing firearm in vehicle	0	0	0	0	1
Discharge of firearm in/on vehicle/fell from insecure rest	1	2	2	0	2
Running or entering/exiting stand with loaded firearm	0	0	0	0	0
Horseplay	0	0	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	1	2	2	0	3

IV. OTHER					
Ricochet	0	1	1	0	0
Obstruction in Barrel or Faulty Equipment	0	3	3	0	1
Mixed Ammo/Incorrect Sub.	0	1	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	0	5	4	0	1
GRAND TOTAL	17	21	24	12	15

ANIMAL HUNTED					
Dove	13	11	6	6	4
Deer	2	4	1	1	5
Rabbit/Hare	0	0	2	0	1
Feral Hog/Peccary	8	2	6	2	2
Quail/Pheasant	3	1	0	2	1
Turkey	0	0	1	0	0
Ducks/Geese	1	0	1	0	2
Coyote/Bobcat	0	0	1	0	0
Squirrel/Prairie Dog	1	0	0	0	0
Nongame birds/Snake	0	0	1	0	0
Furbearers (2021 - Skunk)	0	0	0	1	0
Exotic	1	1	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	17	21	24	12	15

2022 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)
12-03	Wise	15/F	Rifle	Deer	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Careless Handling - Father dropped 15-year-old victim and a family friend off on private land adjacent to public land where father hunted. Victim was in a blind 300 yards from friend. After friend and father heard a shot, they went to the victim's blind and found her dead -- a shot from her lower jaw thru the top of her skull. No known reasons for suicide in her history (determined to be accident).					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; keep 'safety' on until actively taking a shot; handle firearms carefully, especially within enclosed spaces/blinds; keep actions open until hunting; be familiar with firearms (e.g., action types), especially the ones used; apply what is learned in hunter ed.					

2022 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)
5-30	Schleicher	59/M	Handgun	Rabbit	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Discharge of Firearm in Vehicle - A party of six were rabbit hunting from a 6-seater UHV. Driver stopped UHV to shoot at a rabbit and while retrieving his loaded .22 handgun from unzipped, soft case, the trigger was activated, sending a round towards the right calf of victim, sitting in the back.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; carry unloaded, cased firearms in vehicles with actions open, separate from ammo; take care when loading/unloading a firearm while in blinds or stopped vehicle, especially while in close quarters with others; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
9-5	Clay	26/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Careless Handling - Hunter was hunting dove and raised cocked, single-shot, 20-ga. shotgun to shoot but didn't take a shot. He began walking again, losing the grip of his shotgun, and he discharged it towards the little toe on his right foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and maintain control of the firearm with an approved carry; close action with safety on/hammer closed, when hunting but not actively taking a shot; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
9-12	Uvalde	65/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Faulty Equipment - Hunter fired his 20-gauge multiple times at dove before his over-under shotgun misfired and exploded in the palm of his hand. He suffered damage to his hand from his index finger to thumb and claimed he was not carrying 28-gauge ammo from his second shotgun, which he left at camp, nor had he dropped or plugged the shotgun with mud in between shots.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always clean and check equipment, thoroughly, before use, and take firearms to a certified gunsmith if faulty in any way; carry only the ammunition for the firearm you are using and properly load and unload before taking a shot; complete hunter education, even if not required.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
9-14	Fannin	26/M	Rifle	Hog	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire – Shooter fired at hog outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim, who was standing to the left of shooter, was struck by the .30 caliber bullet in his right shoulder.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and stick to a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions and other hunters in the area; know where others are always positioned; 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.					
9-17	Frio	44/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Loading/Unloading Firearm – Shooter was pointing muzzle towards his friend's arm as he closed the breach of his over/under shotgun. As he shut the firearm, the shotgun went off -- likely because he had his finger on the trigger and the shotgun was off 'safe'.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; carry unloaded, cased firearms in vehicles with actions open, separate from ammo; take care when loading/unloading a firearm while standing near others or otherwise in close quarters; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
9-17	Frio	39/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire – Shooter fired at low-flying doves outside of his safe zone and 'peppered' one of his hunting companions who was standing on another side of pond from shooter. Pellets struck victim in his right arm and chest.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and stick to a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions and other hunters in the area; know where others are always positioned; 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.					
11-5	Trinity	15/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire – Shooter fired at low flying ducks outside of his safe zone of fire and shot a hunting companion who was positioned with another one of the four hunters, collectively in a "J" fashion next to the water. Victim was struck in chest (1 BB pellet) and face (6 BB pellets).					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and stick to a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions and other hunters in the area; know where others are always positioned; position should not be in front of other hunters in the group; 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.					
11-5	Cass	65/M	Shotgun	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Mistaken for Game – Shooter fired at what he thought was a deer at 70 yards with a 12-gauge shotgun with 3" shells. Victim was hit by 39 pellets - two each to the heart and abdomen and the rest to the face and arm.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and stick to a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions and other hunters in the area; know where others are always positioned; 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.					
11-12	Jim Hogg	41/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Removing/Placing Firearm in Vehicle – Shooter put his rifle into a gun case after hunting deer. The rifle was loaded with the safety switch on 'fire'. As he closed the case, the foam depressed the trigger, and the bullet went through the abdomen of the victim standing in front of the rifle/case.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; carry unloaded, cased firearms in vehicles with actions open, separate from ammo; take care when loading/unloading a firearm while in blinds or near vehicle, especially while in close quarters with others; obey the law by complying with hunter education requirement.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
11-27	Potter	19/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Careless Handling – Shooter put his left hand near the ported muzzle of his loaded rifle while hunting deer at a National Recreation Area. In the process of bending forward, the trigger was depressed with the safety in the 'off' position. He suffered minor injuries to his left index and middle fingers.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and maintain control of the firearm with an approved carry; close action with safety on/hammer closed, when hunting but not actively taking a shot; never step in front or put your hand over the muzzle apply what is learned in hunter education.					
11-27	Trinity	UNK/M	Handgun	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire – Multiple shooters (8) were spread out and firing at running hogs in an open field, when one of the shooters (unknown) fired towards the victim who was struck by a .45-caliber bullet in the collarbone/lower neck. Seven hunters were issued citations for no hunter education proof.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and stick to a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions and other hunters in the area; know where others are always positioned; position should not be in front of other hunters in the group; make sure to identify the target clearly; identify what is in front of and behind the target before shooting; obey the law by complying with hunter education requirement.					
11-29	Denton	55/M	Crossbow	Deer	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Careless Handling of a Bow – Deer hunter was sitting in a tree stand with his crossbow between his legs, broadhead facing towards his feet. Crossbow was carelessly discharged sending arrow through his left ankle. He pulled arrow from wound channel and started to bleed significantly, so he called 911 then attempted a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. He tried to exit stand but passed out and was found hanging 20 feet in the air about 50 minutes later. He was air lifted to a local trauma center where he recovered.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle or arrow in a safe direction; use safe tree stand procedures, climbing system and harness and haul line; file a hunt plan, especially when hunting alone; take a tourniquet with you while hunting and get trained on its use; apply pressure to bleeding but do not pull impaled objects out of body; immobilize with tape; seek first aid training/certification; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
12-14	Erath	63/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Swinging Outside Safe Zone of Fire – Shooter fired at low-flying quail outside of his safe zone of fire and shot one of his hunting companions. Pellets struck victim to the front, upper left torso.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction and stick to a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions and guide; know where others are always positioned; 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.					
12-16	Brown	66/M	Shotgun	Ducks	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Discharge of Firearm in Vehicle – A party of four were jumping stock tanks shooting ducks. While driving between tanks, driver carry a loaded shotgun, safety off, left of his seat with muzzle pointed towards the car roof under his arm. Driving over a rough spot, the shotgun discharged, damaging the arm between his shoulder and elbow. First responders applied a tourniquet, then victim was air flighted to Fort Worth.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; carry unloaded/cased firearms with actions open while in vehicles and separate from ammo; load firearm only when hunting; complete hunter education, even if not required.					

2022 NON-FIREARM/BOW HUNTING RELATED (B) **

Type	Age/Gender	Fatal?	Comments
Tree Stand - Fall 10/1/22	24/M	NO	Deer bowhunter was climbing out of stand 18 ft high when a branch he was holding snapped. He suffered punctured spleen, broken wrist, and bruised ribs. He was not wearing a safety harness nor using a haul line. Victim had taken hunter education.
Tree Stand - Fall 10/31/22	66/M	NO	Victim was not wearing a safety harness and fell from tree stand. His foot got hung up in the stand, and he hung upside down for two hours until help arrived. He did not have HE Certification.

**** 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).

2022 NON-HUNTING/FIREARM RELATED (C) ***

Type	Age/Gender/ Firearm	Fatal?	Comments
Discharge of Firearm in Vehicle 2-24-21	14/M Self-inflicted	NO	The victim was preparing to exit vehicle to open a gate, and as he was adjusting the handgun on his right side, the trigger activated, sending a round into his right thigh.

***** 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)



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