

2003  
TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS  
ANALYSIS



Federal Aid Project  
W-104-S



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

## TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT PROFILE

- Violated a cardinal rule of hunter safety
- Anglo male; 27 years of age (average)
- Hunted deer with rifle or dove with shotgun
- Was typically **not** under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- 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 or stand
- Sustained a non-fatal injury
- If not self-inflicted – swung shotgun on game outside of safe zone of fire
- Had over 10 years of hunting experience
- If self-inflicted – handled firearm carelessly and/or carried loaded firearm in or around vehicle
- Distance of muzzle to wound was within 50 yards, mostly within 10 yards
- Victim was in light to open cover with clear visibility (weather)
- Accident occurred towards dusk; fatigue a factor
- Accident occurred on weekend during September or November



### 2003 Significant Factors

- Many violations for “failure to take hunter education course” in 2003
- The wearing of blaze orange would reduce many accidents in Texas
- Swinging on game outside of a safe zone of fire is still the primary accident type (dove hunting)
- Ricochets a factor in 2003
- Hog and quail/pheasant hunting accidents up in 2003
- Violations of law common among accident scenarios
- Careless handling, especially in and around vehicles, is a big problem in Texas

**HUNTING ACCIDENT DATA (1966-2003)  
ACCIDENT VERSUS LICENSES SOLD IN TEXAS**

CALENDAR YEAR	HUNTER ACCIDENTS	HUNTING LICENSES SOLD	ACCIDENTS PER 100,000 LICENSES	STUDENTS CERTIFIED
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	34,727
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,557</b>	<b>40,152,725</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>651,753</b>

- First ten-year average of hunter education program (CY 1966 - CY 1975) - One hunting accident/**10,858** hunting licenses sold.
- Second ten-year average of hunter education program (CY 1976 - CY 1985) - One hunting accident/**15,662** hunting licenses sold.
- Third ten-year average of hunter education program (CY 1986 - CY 1995) - One hunting accident/**17,515** hunting licenses sold.
- Thirty-eight year average (CY 1966 - CY 2002) - One hunting accident/**15,703** hunting licenses sold.

## TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS 1966-2003

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
<b>MANDATORY HUNTER EDUCATION</b>			
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
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>2,557</b>

## TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT TOTALS 2003

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

	2001	2002	2003		2001	2002	2003
<b>ACCIDENTS</b>				<b>VIOLATED GAME LAW</b>	14 (33%)	8 (22%)	13 (30%)
Total Accidents	43	35	44	<b>EQUIPMENT TYPE</b>			
Fatal	3	3	2	Rifles	15 (35%)	13 (37%)	17 (39%)
Non-fatal	40	32	42	Shotguns	23 (53%)	19 (54%)	24 (54%)
<b>ANIMAL HUNTED</b>				Handguns	5 (12%)	3 (09%)	2 (5%)
Dove	13 (30%)	11 (31%)	11 (25%)	Muzzleloader	0	0	0
White-tailed Deer	9 (21%)	8 (22%)	6 (13%)	Bow	0	0	1 (2%)
Rabbit/Hare	4 (10%)	2 (06%)	3 (7%)	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43(100%)</b>	<b>35(100%)</b>	<b>44(100%)</b>
Feral Hog	6 (14%)	2 (06%)	7 (16%)	<b>SHOOTER'S AGE</b>			
Quail/Pheasant	1 (02%)	3 (09%)	8 (18%)	0-9	1 (02%)	1 (03%)	0
Turkey	2 (05%)	4 (11%)	1 (2%)	10-19	16 (38%)	8 (22%)	12 (27%)
Ducks/Geese	0	1 (03%)	0	20-29	6 (14%)	8 (22%)	6 (13%)
Coyote	1 (02%)	0	2 (5%)	30-39	3 (07%)	1 (03%)	2 (5%)
Squirrel	1 (02%)	1 (03%)	2 (5%)	40-49	4 (10%)	10 (29%)	11 (25%)
Miscellaneous	6 (14%)	3 (09%)	4 (9%)	50-59	5 (11%)	2 (06%)	7 (16%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43(100%)</b>	<b>35(100%)</b>	<b>44(100%)</b>	60 & over	3 (07%)	2 (06%)	3 (7%)
<b>HUNTER JUDGMENT</b>				Unknown	5 (11%)	3 (09%)	3 (7%)
Victim out of sight of shooter/moved into line of fire	8	5	6	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43(100%)</b>	<b>35(100%)</b>	<b>44(100%)</b>
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	8	11	11	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
Victim mistaken for game	3	3	4	Obstruction in Barrel	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	Ricochet	0	1	4
<b>SAFETY &amp; LAW VIOLATION</b>				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
Removing/placing firearm in vehicle or stand	1	2	0	<b>SKILL AND APTITUDE</b>			
Discharge of firearm in/on vehicle	8	3	3	Trigger caught on object	1	1	0
Improper Crossing of an obstacle	0	0	1	Loading/unload firearm	0	0	3
Firearm fell from insecure rest/Using firearm as a club	0	1	1	Careless handling	9	6	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	Dropped firearm	4	0	2
<b>SHOOTERS HAD HUNTER ED.</b>	10 (23%)	12 (34%)	9 (20%)	Shooter stumbled and fell	1	1	1
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>
				<b>SELF-INFLICTED</b>	15 (35%)	11 (31%)	11 (25%)
				<b>ALCOHOL A FACTOR</b>	1 (02%)	1 (03%)	1 (02%)

## Hunting Accident Report Non-Firearm Related 2003

\*Accidents/incidents while hunting, not involving the discharge of a firearm or bow, which causes injury or death of any person(s).

Type	Total	Fatal?	Comments
Fall from Home-made Tree Stand	1	Yes	Bow hunter fell from tree when single bolt holding fiberglass boat seat broke
Heart Attack	1	Yes	Duck Hunter -- Occurred on Engeling Wildlife Management Area
Animal Bite	1	No	Man was bit on right wrist by a feral hog

## Shooting Accidents 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	Total	Fatal?	Comments
Target shooting/ Plinking	1	No	Shooter carelessly discharged loaded firearm while unloading; bullet struck in foot
Shotgun accident while shooting skeet	1	No	Careless handling of shotgun; rested muzzle on toe and pulled trigger -thinking it was unloaded
Handgun accident while marking property line	1	No	Careless handling; improper holstering of handgun; handgun fell from holster

## 2003 FATAL ACCIDENTS

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
12-2	Wood	14/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and victim had just shot a squirrel in their back yard. Shooter carelessly discharged his loaded shotgun while he was bending down to plug in Christmas lights on front porch. The muzzle was pointed towards his 11-year old brother standing in front of him at the time.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always unload and case firearm when not in use, after a hunt; never walk in front of the muzzle of a firearm.					
12-20	Marion	65/M	Shotgun	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly shot himself while in the process of climbing a tree with a climbing tree stand. He shot himself fatally with a shotgun; but his loaded rifle also discharged in the process. Both firearms were hauled loaded, with the safety 'off', and attached to a hauling line by the trigger guards and barrels. Victim had a can of beer in his pocket, but alcohol apparently wasn't a factor at time of incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always unload and attach firearm properly to a hauling line with muzzle pointed in opposite direction; Never use alcohol prior to or while hunting; Hunt with a companion; Attend a hunter education course.					

## 2003 NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
1-4	Robertson	12/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his loaded shotgun while bending alongside the victim and two other hunting companions. The muzzle was pointed towards his 11-year old friend standing next to him at the time. Hunters did not have hunting licenses and had not taken hunter education course.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt with adult supervision.					
1-10	Atascosa	47/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for a hog and shot his .243 cal. rifle. Bullet struck victim in right hand.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always be absolutely sure of your target before raising your rifle; carry binoculars; attend a hunter education course.					
1-17	Duval	25/M	Rifle	Rabbit	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his .22 cal. rifle while the muzzle was pointed at his left lower leg. He did not have hunting licenses and had not taken hunter education course.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt with adult supervision.					
1-18	Colorado	40/M	Shotgun	Pheasant	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					

<b>Date</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Shooter's Age/Gender</b>	<b>Firearm</b>	<b>Animal Hunted</b>	<b>Self-Inflicted</b>	<b>Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)</b>
1-24	Cottle	44/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game. Pellets struck victim in back (right shoulder blade). Victim was wearing a hunter orange cap and vest/coat. Hunters were hunting on public land (Matador WMA).					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
2-2	Brown	16/M	Rifle	Turtle	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was shooting a .22 cal. rifle at turtles in a stock pond. One of the bullets ricocheted and struck a nearby landowner who was fixing a tire on his tractor.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; never shoot a rifle/handgun at a flat hard surface such as water; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt under adult supervision; do not practice shooting at wildlife.					
2-2	Robertson	10M	Rifle	Skunk	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	10-year old shooter was shooting a .22 cal. rifle from one end of irrigation pipe. His 8-year old brother was at the other end. The bullet struck victim in head. Shooter told victim to move so he could shoot; the victim was still looking through the pipe when shooter fired his gun.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; never shoot a rifle/handgun at a flat hard surface such as water; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt under adult supervision; do not practice shooting at wildlife.					
2-7	Erath	UNK	Shotgun	Quail	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter swung on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Pellets struck victim in face as he was walking back to his vehicle. Shots were fired from three hunters shooting at quail over 40 yards away from the victim. It was unknown who specifically fired the shot as hunters all fired using the same loads.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point 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.					
2-24	LaSalle	41/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
2-25	Lamar	15/M	Rifle	Rabbit	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter shot at a rabbit twice, outside of a safe zone of fire. Victim, who was struck by a .22 cal. rifle bullet fragment in his upper thigh, was standing on the other side of some brush. Licensed adult hunter was present, but was not within immediate voice distance at time of shot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course.					
3-19	Van Zandt	27/M	Bow	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Arrow ricocheted and traveled approximately 35 yards behind the hog that the shooter was trying to hit. The victim and his friend had pushed the hog to the shooter and were waiting to see the shot from atop a ridge above the hunter's position. Arrow struck victim in chest. He was airlifted to a nearby hospital and was saved despite having one lung punctured.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; never shoot at flat hard surfaces with bow and arrow; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course.					



<b>Date</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Shooter's Age/Gender</b>	<b>Firearm</b>	<b>Animal Hunted</b>	<b>Self-Inflicted</b>	<b>Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)</b>
5-4	Throckmorton	55/M	Handgun	Rattlesnake	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was shooting a .22 cal. handgun at rattlesnake on a gravel road. A bullet fragment ricocheted and struck victim who was standing nearby, at an angle behind the snake.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; never shoot a rifle/handgun at a flat hard surface such as water or gravel; hunt and kill only what you plan to eat or use to the fullest extent.					
7-5	Presidio	42/M	Rifle	Coyote	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for a coyote and shot his .220 Swift cal. rifle from over 100 yards away. Bullet struck victim in upper left leg. Hunters were in violation of several laws at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always be absolutely sure of your target before raising your rifle; carry binoculars; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course.					
9-1	Dickens	11/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was sitting on bucket with firearm across knees. He dropped the firearm and carelessly fired it towards victim who was about 10 feet away. Pellets struck victim in the left foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt with adult supervision.					
9-1	Montague	14/M	Shotgun	Snake	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	While laughing, shooter pulled the trigger while shotgun muzzle was resting on his foot; apparently thinking it was not loaded.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt with adult supervision; avoid horseplay.					
9-1	Wichita	UNK	Shotgun	Dove	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was out of sight of shooter and was struck by pellets to the head, neck and chest area.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times or if others are allowed onto the private land on which you are hunting; wear blaze orange into and out of a dove hunting area.					
9-1	Houston	33/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. She was retrieving a downed dove at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; obey hunting laws; attend a hunter education course.					
9-1	Mills	55/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was out of sight of shooter and was struck by three pellets to the eye, lip and forehead. She was sitting behind a grain drill at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times or if others are allowed onto the private land on which you are hunting; wear hunter orange into and out of a dove hunting area.					
9-3	Leon	44/M	Handgun	Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carried a loaded handgun while crossing a fence and carelessly discharged it into his right calf. He was retrieving a downed hog at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Never cross an obstacle with a loaded firearm; keep handguns unloaded in the chamber while hunting; always point the muzzle in a safe direction; attend a hunter education course.					

<b>Date</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Shooter's Age/Gender</b>	<b>Firearm</b>	<b>Animal Hunted</b>	<b>Self-Inflicted</b>	<b>Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)</b>
9-3	Lamar	12/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim didn't tell shooter he was moving positions and moved into the line of fire of the shooter. Shooter swung on game outside of his safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; wear hunter orange into and out of a dove hunting area and/or while relocating positions.					
9-4	Cottle	UNK	Shotgun	Dove	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was out of sight of shooter and was struck by one pellet in the left shoulder.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times or if others are allowed onto the private land on which you are hunting; wear hunter orange into and out of a dove hunting area.					
9-5	Medina	54/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly pulled the trigger while shotgun muzzle was resting on his foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
9-13	Brown	53/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was out of sight of shooter and was struck by two pellets in the right elbow.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times or if others are allowed onto the private land on which you are hunting; wear hunter orange into/ out of a dove hunting area; attend a hunter education course.					
9-20	Upshur	12/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
9-20	Medina	12/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly carried and dropped .410-gauge shotgun. The pellets struck him in his upper right arm.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; use proper carries and control to muzzle at all times; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course; hunt under adult supervision					
9-20	Karnes	21/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly pulled the trigger while shotgun muzzle was resting on his foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; never rest or carry a firearm loaded, with the 'safety' off; attend a hunter education course.					
10-3	McCullough	57/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
10-19	Jasper	14/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for a hog and shot his .30/30 cal. rifle. Bullet struck victim in left thigh.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always be absolutely sure of your target before raising your rifle; carry binoculars; obey hunting laws; attend a hunter education course.					

<b>Date</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Shooter's Age/Gender</b>	<b>Firearm</b>	<b>Animal Hunted</b>	<b>Self-Inflicted</b>	<b>Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)</b>
10-25	Dimmit	67/M - multiple	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Three victims were covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Incident occurred on public land - Chaparral WMA.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
10-28	Gonzalez	18/M	Rifle	Hog	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly loaded and discharged an unfamiliar firearm that he borrowed from the victim immediately before attempting to shoot a wounded hog. The bullet struck the victim in the upper left leg.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always be absolutely sure of the target and what is in front/behind before raising the firearm; be familiar with how to load and unload the firearm you are using; know where others are positioned at all times; maintain safety even when your emotions are high.					
11-4	Anderson	40/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for a hog. Victim was riding an ATV and hunters were hunting at night and after a large hog at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always be absolutely sure of your target before raising your rifle; never hunt hogs at night unless you have adequate lighting; carry binoculars; attend a hunter education course.					
11-15	Callahan	45/M	Rifle	Turkey	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was shooting a .22 cal. rifle at a turkey. A bullet fragment ricocheted off of a barbwire fence and struck the victim who was sitting in a clump behind and at an angle from the bird.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point firearm in a safe direction; never shoot a rifle/handgun through fence lines; establish safe zones of fire for each hunter in a hunting party; use appropriate firearms for the game pursued; attend a hunter education course.					
11-16	Childress	27/M	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged his loaded rifle when placing back into the vehicle. He had ejected two cartridges and thought it to be unloaded.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload and case firearm before transporting it; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; never hunt from a vehicle.					
11-20	Kerr	56/M	Rifle	Coyote	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged his rifle while unloading it. The bullet ricocheted off the gravel and fragments struck the victim who was standing over 10 yards away.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; carefully load and unload firearm when not in use; attend a hunter education course.					
11-23	Hill	47/M	Rifle	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged his loaded rifle while removing it from a vehicle. The bullet struck the victim below the knee. The victim was seated in the passenger's seat.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload and case firearm before transporting it; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; never hunt from a vehicle; attend a hunter education course					
11-26	Runnels	44/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly handled and dropped his loaded rifle while climbing a tripod stand. The rifle discharged sending the bullet through his arm.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always unload prior to entering or exiting a stand; use a haul line; carefully climb up and down an elevated stand; attend a hunter education course.					

<b>Date</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Shooter's Age/Gender</b>	<b>Firearm</b>	<b>Animal Hunted</b>	<b>Self-Inflicted</b>	<b>Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)</b>
11-27	Kleburg	62/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim was struck by pellets in her face and shoulder.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
12-19	Robertson	33/M	Shotgun	Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly pulled the trigger while shotgun muzzle was resting on his foot. Shooter and hunting companion were dragging out a hog at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; unload when firearm is no longer in use; attend a hunter education course.					
12-21	Palo Pinto	29/M	Rifle	Rabbit	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly pulled the trigger while using a loaded firearm to dispatch a wounded rabbit. Shooter and companion had been drinking at the time and were not in possession of a hunting license or the proper hunter education certification. The stock was broken and found separated from the barrel it was knocked so hard.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; never use a firearm as a club nor carry it with the 'safety' off; attend a hunter education course; Always purchase a hunting license before hunting.					
12-21	Sutton	56/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly pulled the trigger while walking with a loaded firearm to his stand in the dark. The rifle's safety was in the off position.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times; never rest or carry a firearm loaded, with the 'safety' off; attend a hunter education course.					
12-22	Kerr	41/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; attend a hunter education course.					
12-25	Runnels	20/M	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged his loaded rifle while placing it in a case on the tailgate of his truck. The bullet struck the victim who was standing in front of the muzzle to the side of the truck.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload when firearm is not in; treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times					