

2005
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; 29 years of age (average)
- 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 – 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



2005 Significant Factors

- Tree stand climbing incidents with firearms a factor in 2005
- Careless handling in and around vehicles caused both fatalities
- Swinging on game outside of a safe zone of fire is still the primary accident type (dove and quail hunting)
- Higher aged shooters involved in 2005 hunting incidents
- Number of Hunter Education Graduates increased slightly
- No turkey, coyote, squirrel or rabbit incidents again in 2005 (two straight years)

**HUNTING ACCIDENT DATA (1966-2005)
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
2004	29	1,091,178	2.7	31,184
2005	31	1,082,593	2.9	32,562
TOTALS	2,617	42,326,496	6.2	715,499

- First ten-year average (CY 1966 - CY 1975) - One hunting accident/**10,858** hunting licenses sold.
- Second ten-year average (CY 1976 - CY 1985) - One hunting accident/**15,662** hunting licenses sold.
- Third ten-year average (CY 1986 - CY 1995) - One hunting accident/**17,515** hunting licenses sold.
- Fourth ten-year average (CY 1996 - CY 2005) - One hunting accident/**26,184** hunting licenses sold.

TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS 1966-2005

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
MANDATORY HUNTER EDUCATION			
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
TOTALS	532	2,085	2,617

TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT TOTALS 2005

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).

ACCIDENTS	2003	2004	2005	VIOLATED GAME LAW	2003	2004	2005
Total Accidents	44	29	31		13 (30%)	10 (34%)	6 (19%)
Fatal	2	4	2				
Non-fatal	42	25	29				
ANIMAL HUNTED				EQUIPMENT TYPE			
Dove	11 (25%)	11 (38%)	5 (16%)	Rifles	17 (39%)	9 (31%)	8 (26%)
White-tailed Deer	6 (13%)	6 (20%)	8 (26%)	Shotguns	24 (54%)	19 (65%)	18 (58%)
Rabbit/Hare	3 (7%)	0	0	Handguns	2 (5%)	1 (4%)	4 (13%)
Feral Hog/Javelina	7 (16%)	5 (17%)	6 (19%)	Muzzleloader	0	0	0
Quail/Pheasant	8 (18%)	5 (17%)	7 (23%)	Bow	1 (2%)	0	1 (3%)
Turkey	1 (2%)	0	0	TOTAL	44(100%)	29(100%)	31(100%)
Ducks/Geese	0	1 (4%)	2 (6%)	SHOOTER'S AGE			
Coyote	2 (5%)	0	0	0-9	0	1 (4%)	0
Squirrel	2 (5%)	0	0	10-19	12 (27%)	2 (7%)	4 (13%)
Misc. (Snake, Raccoon, Ram))	4 (9%)	1 (4%)	3 (10%)	20-29	6 (13%)	7 (24%)	2 (6%)
TOTAL	44(100%)	29 (100%)	30 (100%)	30-39	2 (5%)	5 (17%)	10 (33%)
HUNTER JUDGMENT				40-49	11 (25%)	4 (14%)	6 (19%)
Victim out of sight of shooter/moved into line of fire	6	3	2	50-59	7 (16%)	2 (7%)	4 (13%)
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	11	9	13	60 & over	3 (7%)	6 (20%)	4 (13%)
Victim mistaken for game	4	2	1	Unknown	3 (7%)	2 (7%)	1 (3%)
TOTAL	21	14	16	TOTAL	44(100%)	29 (100%)	31 (100%)
SAFETY & LAW VIOLATION				MISCELLANEOUS			
Removing/placing firearm in vehicle or stand	0	1	3	Obstruction in Barrel	0	0	1
Discharge of firearm in/on vehicle	3	3	4	Ricochet	4	0	0
Improper Crossing of an obstacle	1	0	1	TOTAL	4	0	1
Firearm fell from insecure rest/Using firearm as a club	1	1	0	SKILL AND APTITUDE			
TOTAL	5	5	8	Loading/unloading gun	3	0	0
SHOOTER HAD COMPLETED HUNTER ED.	9 (20%)	3 (10%)	9 (30%)	Careless handling	8	9	2
				Careless handling while climbing into/out of tree stand	0	0	3
				Dropped firearm	2	0	0
				Shooter stumbled and fell	1	1	1
				TOTAL	14	10	6
				SELF-INFLICTED	11 (25%)	10 (34%)	11 (35%)
				ALCOHOL A FACTOR	1 (02%)	1 (4%)	1 (3%)

Hunting Accident Report Non-Firearm Related 2005

*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
Motorcycle Accident	1	No	Shooter was pursuing coyotes while on a motorcycle and struck a downed telephone pole hidden in the grass and was thrown from the motorcycle.
Heart Attack	2	Yes	Deer hunters ages 50 and 78 died of heart failure while in the act of hunting.

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 Practice, Plinking	3	No	Careless handling of firearms; two while loading rifles and one while plinking with a handgun
Ranch Chore	1	Yes	Careless handling of shotgun while crossing through a gate; rancher was going to shoot shotgun to "scare off birds" from his hay;
Hunting camp	1	No	3-year old approached a loaded .22 cal rifle propped against an ATV and carelessly discharged it. Bullet struck 6-year old brother in the left thigh.

2005 FATAL ACCIDENTS

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self- Inflicted?	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
1-15	Mason	37/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim and companions had just shot and dragged a deer to the vehicle and the victim laid his loaded rifle in the truck. As he was moving gear around, he carelessly discharged the gun with the muzzle pointed towards his own chest.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload the second you are no longer hunting; when transporting a firearm, always make sure it is unloaded and in a case, separate from the ammunition; handle firearms carefully; treat every firearm as if it was loaded; attend a hunter education course.					
12-04	Limestone	56/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was shooting at hogs from atop his vehicle, with his 6-year-old granddaughter sitting inside, in the front passenger seat. The bullet ricocheted off of the vehicle top, sending bullets fragments through the roof and into the victim's chest and leg area.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; never hunt from a vehicle; be sure of what is immediately in front of the muzzle, in front of and behind the target when shooting; when transporting a firearm, always make sure it is unloaded and in a case, separate from the ammunition; handle firearms carefully; attend a hunter education course.					

2005 NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

1-2	Pecos	18/M	Handgun	Deer	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged his semi-automatic handgun while riding in a vehicle. He was operating the slide/magazine on the gun. The bullet struck him in the leg.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload the second you are no longer hunting; when transporting a firearm, always make sure it is unloaded and in a case, separate from the ammunition; handle firearms carefully; treat every firearm as if it was loaded; apply what is learned in the hunter education course.					
1-2	Coleman	30/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Shooter had just retrieved a downed bird and then fired at another quail that flushed and flew in the direction of the victim. Many pellets struck victim in the upper torso, arms and face.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; wear blaze orange to be seen; apply what is learned in the hunter education course.					
1-7	La Salle	69/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly stumbled and discharged his loaded rifle while removing it from his ATV. The bullet struck him in the right foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload the second you are no longer hunting; when transporting a firearm, always make sure it is unloaded and in a case, separate from the ammunition; handle firearms carefully and with two hands to control the muzzle; treat every firearm as if it was loaded; attend a hunter education course.					

Shooter's	Self-	Hunter Ed. Graduate?
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Date	County	Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Inflicted?	(Shooter)
1-10	San Augustine	55/M	Handgun	Raccoon	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Trapper was crossing a fence with a loaded .22 cal. handgun in one hand and traps in the other hand. He carelessly discharged the handgun in the process. Bullet struck victim in abdomen.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always unload before crossing a fence; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times - including holster technique with hammer strap and unloaded cylinder; attend a hunter education course.					
1-21	Hall	45/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Shooter was in a ravine and the victim was above him outside of the ravine. Pellets struck victim in the upper arm and neck.					
<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; wear blaze orange to be seen; attend a hunter education course.					
1-29	Mason	29/M	Bow	Exotic (Ram)	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly fired his bow and arrow as a ram moved in between the shooter and victim who were 20-30 feet apart. Arrow struck victim in the calf muscle.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; apply what is learned in the hunter and bow hunter education courses.					
2-19	Runnels	63/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim, who had been sitting back in the golf cart, changed position without telling shooter. One pellet each struck victim above his right eye and cheek.					
<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; wear blaze orange to be seen; attend a hunter education course.					
3-25	Van Zandt	19/M	Rifle	Hog	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and three companions were in a <i>hunting competition</i> hunting at night for hogs. Shooter mistook victim for a hog about 30 yards away and despite two warnings not to shoot from a fellow hunter he carelessly shot his rifle. Victim was wearing a white cowboy hat and tee shirt. The bullet struck victim through both buttocks.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; be absolutely sure of the target before raising the firearm; stay within a safe zone of fire; never move into a hunter's zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; never hunt at night without adequate lighting (when legal); know where others are positioned at all times; wear blaze orange to be seen; apply what is learned in the hunter education course.					
7-22	Burleson	42/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged his rifle while hunting hogs from inside a moving vehicle. Bullet went through the cab where the shooter was sitting and into the bed where the victim was sitting. Bullet fragment struck victim in the top of his head.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; never hunt from a vehicle; when transporting a firearm, always make sure it is unloaded and in a case, separate from the ammunition; handle firearms carefully; treat every firearm as if it was loaded; attend a hunter education course.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
9-1	Eastland	35/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim had just retrieved a downed bird. A few pellets struck victim in his waist area.					
<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; wear blaze orange to be seen; attend a hunter education course.					
9-1	Medina	62/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim was behind brush into which the dove flew. Pellets struck victim throughout his body.					
<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; wear blaze orange to be seen; attend a hunter education course.					
9-3	San Saba	31/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes - WA
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Pellets struck victim in his face, torso and hands/arms.					
<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; wear blaze orange to be seen; apply what is learned in the hunter education course.					
9-3	Brown	UNK/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Non-hunting victim was sitting in a chair next to a building, out of sight of shooters. He was struck in the arm by a pellet fired from a group of dove hunters that were hunting in an adjacent sunflower field across the highway.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always stay within a safe zone of fire; never move into a hunter's zone of fire; communicate with hunters who are hunting nearby.					
9-4	Motley	26/M	Shotgun	Rattlesnake	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was shooting at a snake on a dove hunt, and there was an obstruction in his shotgun. The "blow up" sent pellets into the upper left chest of the victim who was standing nearby.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always be sure to clean the firearm properly before and after hunts; use what you kill; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course.					
10-10	Brown	54/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. The victim was placed in a spot by a hunting guide, but moved closer to shooter. Pellets struck victim in the torso, left arm and cheek.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload prior to climbing a stand; use a haul line and a proper fall restraint device; stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; follow safe advice from companions and guides; apply what is learned in the hunter education course.					
10-22	Atascosa	33/M	Shotgun	Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was climbing a tree stand with a loaded shotgun and fell. He carelessly shot himself in the chin with buckshot load.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload prior to climbing a tree stand; use TMA-approved stands only; use a haul line and a proper fall restraint device; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
10-23	Van Zandt	15/M	Handgun	Hog	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Boy had just shot a hog and carelessly discharged his loaded handgun as he placed it back in his holster. Bullet struck victim in the hip/thigh and exited the knee. He had just taken hunter education five days prior to the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload the second you are no longer hunting;; handle firearms carefully; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times - including holster technique with hammer strap and unloaded cylinder; apply what is learned in the hunter education course.					
10-29	Mills	10/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Dad was covered by 10-year old swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim was behind brush and not properly supervising the young hunter. Pellets struck victim throughout his left side.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always stay within a safe zone of fire; supervise all hunters under 12 years of age (within voice control) and mentor them while they hunt; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; wear blaze orange to be seen; attend a hunter education course.					
11-3	Colorado	52/M	Shotgun	Pheasants/Quail	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim had just returned to the vehicle to retrieve more ammunition. Pellets struck throughout his body.					
<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; wear blaze orange to be seen; apply what is learned in the hunter education course.					
11-5	Smith	36/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	Yes - CT
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Shooter also carelessly handled and discharged the shotgun. Pellets ricocheted off of water and struck victim in the upper side of his body.					
<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; avoid loose fitted clothing; know that pellets and bullets can ricochet on water; attend a hunter education course.					
11-5	Gillespie	39/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim carelessly discharged his loaded rifle while removing it from his vehicle. The bullet traveled downward and struck him in the left knee and foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload the second you are no longer hunting; when transporting a firearm, always make sure it is unloaded and in a case, separate from the ammunition; handle firearms carefully and with two hands to control the muzzle; treat every firearm as if it was loaded; attend a hunter education course.					
11-5	Cass	31/M	Rifle	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was sitting in camp, while the shooter was loading his firearm in preparation for the morning hunt. Shooter carelessly discharged his rifle. Bullet struck victim in her arm. Safety mechanism in the rifle did not work.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload the second you are no longer hunting and have only unloaded firearms in camp; when transporting a firearm, always make sure it is unloaded and in a case, separate from the ammunition; handle firearms carefully and with two hands to control the muzzle; treat every firearm as if it was loaded; obey the laws; take broken firearms to a gunsmith and get them fixed; attend a hunter education course.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
11-6	Anderson	41/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was in camp loading his vehicle and preparing for the morning's hunt. Shooter carelessly discharged his rifle a. Bullet struck him in the foot. Victim was trying to handle a dog that had jumped in the vehicle alongside the loaded firearm which the victim "thought was unloaded."					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload the second you are no longer hunting and have only unloaded firearms in camp; when transporting a firearm, always make sure it is unloaded and in a case, separate from the ammunition; handle firearms carefully and with two hands to control the muzzle; control pets around firearms and ammunition and put them in proper kennels when traveling; treat every firearm as if it was loaded; attend a hunter education course.					
12-6	Polk	73/M	Shotgun	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was climbing a tree stand with a loaded shotgun and carelessly handled and shot himself in the thigh.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload prior to climbing a tree stand; use TMA-approved stands only; use a haul line and a proper fall restraint device; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course.					
12-16	Uvalde	42/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim. Pellets struck victim in lower back.					
<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; wear blaze orange to be seen; attend a hunter education course.					
12-18	Wise	39/M	Handgun	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was climbing a tree stand with a loaded handgun and carelessly shot himself in the arm.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload prior to climbing a tree stand; use TMA-approved stands only; use a haul line and a proper fall restraint device; attend a hunter education course.					
12-21	Limestone	31/M	Shotgun	Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was down range about 100-130 yards from the shooter who was shooting at a hog using buckshot. A pellet struck the victim in the leg.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; wear blaze orange to be seen; obey the laws; attend a hunter education course.					
12-23	Kendall	44 /M	Shotgun	Quail	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim. Pellets struck victim in back, side and arms.					
<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; wear blaze orange to be seen; apply what is learned in the hunter education course.					
12-29	Freestone	43/F	Shotgun	Waterfowl	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim stumbled and fell with a loaded shotgun while on her way from the hunting blind back to the car. She was under the apparent influence of intoxicants or drugs. Pellets struck victim below her knee.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; unload the second you are no longer hunting; use proper carry techniques and control the muzzle with two hands; obey the laws; remember that alcohol and hunting don't mix; attend a hunter education course.					