## 2005 TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS ANALYSIS





Federal Aid Project W-104-S





#### 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	STUDENT CERTIFIE
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
1980	72	1,174,023	6.1	
	72 97		8.0	13,187
1982		1,216,032		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 <b>-</b> 0	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 2002	43 35	1,076,159	3.4	28,062 37,847
2002	44	1,024,495 1,082,225	4.1	34,727
2004	29	1,082,225	2.7	31,184
2005	31	1,082,593	2.9	32,562

First ten-year average (CY 1966 - CY 1975) - One hunting accident/10,858 hunting licenses sold.

2,617

42,326,496

**TOTALS** 

715,499

<sup>&</sup>gt; Second ten-year average (CY 1976 - CY 1985) - One hunting accident/15,662 hunting licenses sold.

<sup>➤</sup> 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
MA	ANDATORY HUNTER E	DUCATION	
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).

	2003	2004	2005		2003	2004	2005
ACCIDENTS				VIOLATED GAME LAW	13 (30%)	10 (34%)	6 (19%)
Total Accidents	44	29	31	2.1.1			
Fatal	2	4	2	FOLUDA (FAIT TAME			
Non-fatal	42	25	29	EQUIPMENT TYPE	17 (200/)	0 (21%)	0 (2(0))
ANIMAL HUNTED				Rifles	17 (39%)	9 (31%)	8 (26%)
ANIMAL HUNTED	11 (000)	11 (200/)	F (1(0/)	Shotguns	24 (54%)	19 (65%)	18 (58%)
Dove	11 (25%)	11 (38%)	5 (16%)	Handguns	2 (5%)	1 (4%)	4 (13%)
White-tailed Deer	6 (13%)	6 (20%)	8 (26%)	Muzzleloader	1 (20/)	0	1 (20()
Rabbit/Hare	3 (7%)	0	0	Bow	1 (2%)	0	1 (3%)
Feral Hog/Javelina	7 (16%)	5 (17%)	6 (19%)	TOTAL	44(100%)	29(100%)	31(100%)
Quail/Pheasant	8 (18%)	5 (17%)	7 (23%)	CHOOPERIO A CE			
Turkey	1 (2%)	0	0	SHOOTER'S AGE	0	4 (40()	0
Ducks/Geese	0	1 (4%)	2 (6%)	0-9	0	1 (4%)	0
Coyote	2 (5%)	0	0	10-19	12 (27%)	2 (7%)	4 (13%)
Squirrel	2 (5%)	0	0	20-29	6 (13%)	7 (24%)	2 (6%)
Misc. (Snake, Raccoon, Ram))	4 (9%)	1 (4%)	3 (10%)	30-39	2 (5%)	5 (17%)	10 (33%)
TOTAL	44(100%)	29 (100%)	30 (100%)	40-49	11 (25%)	4 (14%)	6 (19%)
		(100 70)	(100 70)	50-59	7 (16%)	2 (7%)	4 (13%)
HUNTER				60 & over	3 (7%)	6 (20%)	4 (13%)
JUDGMENT				00 a 0.01	0 (1,70)	0 (2070)	1 (10 %)
Victim out of sight of	6	3	2	Unknown	3 (7%)	2 (7%)	1 (3%)
shooter/moved into			_		~ (· /-/	_ (- /-/	- (0,1)
line of fire							
Victim covered by	11	9	13	TOTAL	44(100%)	29 (100%)	31
shooter swinging on			10	101112	11(100 /0)	25 (100 70)	(100%)
game							(20070)
Victim mistaken for	4	2	1				
game	-	_	-				
TOTAL	21	14	16	MISCELLANEOUS			
TOTAL	-1	11	10	Obstruction in Barrel	0	0	1
SAFETY & LAW				Ricochet	4	0	0
VIOLATION				Ricocrict	-	O	O
Removing/placing	0	1	3	TOTAL	4	0	1
firearm in vehicle or	O	1	9	TOTAL	-	Ū	•
stand							
Discharge of firearm	3	3	4	SKILL AND			
in/on vehicle	3	3	-	APTITUDE			
Improper Crossing of	1	0	1	Loading/unloading gun	3	0	0
an obstacle	1	O	1	Loading/ unloading gun	3	O	O
anobstacie				Careless handling	8	9	2
Firearm fell from	1	1	0	Careless handling while	0	0	3
insecure rest/Using	1	1	U	climbing into/out of tree	U	U	3
firearm as a club				stand			
TOTAL	5	5	8	Dropped firearm	2	0	0
IOIAL	3	3	0	Shooter stumbled and	1	1	1
				fell	1	1	1
CHOOTERIAD	0 (200/)	2 (100/)	0 (20%)	TOTAL	11	10	
SHOOTER HAD	9 (20%)	3 (10%)	9 (30%)	TOTAL	14	10	6
COMPLETED HUNTER ED.							
HUNTER ED.							
				SELF-INFLICTED	11 (25%)	10 (34%)	11 (35%)
				SELI-INI LICIED	11 (20/0)	10 (3470)	11 (33 /0)
				ALCOHOL A FACTOR	1 (02%)	1 (4%)	1 (3%)
				ALCOHOL A FACTOR	1 (02/0)	1 (4/0)	1 (370)

### 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
Comments:	loaded rifle in the		s moving gear	ed a deer to the vehic around, he carelessly		
Prevention:	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
Comments:	inside, in the from	nt passenger seat.	The bullet ric	cle, with his 6-year-ole cocheted off of the vel s chest and leg area.		
Prevention:	immediately in fr transporting a fir	ront of the muzzle earm, always mal	e, in front of a ke sure it is ur	nunt from a vehicle; be nd behind the target valoaded and in a case, hunter education cou	when shooting , separate fron	g; when
		2005 NON-F	ATAL AC	CCIDENTS		
1-2	Pecos	18/M	Handgun	Deer	Yes	Yes
Comments:				handgun while ridin pullet struck him in th		He was
Prevention:	transporting a fir ammunition; har	earm, always mal	ke sure it is ur fully; treat eve	the second you are n nloaded and in a case, ery firearm as if it was	separate fron	n the
1-2	Coleman	30/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	Yes
Comments:	just retrieved a d direction of the v	owned bird and the citim. Many pelle	hen fired at ar ts struck victi	ne outside of his safe nother quail that flush m in the upper torso,	ned and flew i arms and face	n the e.
Prevention:	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
Comments:	Victim carelessly bullet struck him		scharged his l	oaded rifle while rem	oving it from	his ATV. The
Prevention:	transporting a fir ammunition; har	earm, always mal	ke sure it is ur fully and with	the second you are naloaded and in a case, two hands to controlation course.	, separate fron	n the

		Hunter Ed.
Shooter's	Self-	Graduate?

Date	County	Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Inflicted?	(Shooter)
1-10	San Augustine	55/M	Handgun	Raccoon	Yes	No
Comments:		•		al. handgun in one ha he process. Bullet str	-	
Prevention:	firearm as if it is lo	oaded; control the	e muzzle and	unload before crossir use a proper carry at led cylinder; attend a	all times - incl	luding
1-21	Hall	45/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
Comments:				e outside of his safe a f the ravine. Pellets st		
Prevention:	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
Comments:	Shooter carelessly who were 20-30 fe			am moved in betwee in the calf muscle.	n the shooter	and victim
Prevention:	5 5			cate with hunting cor earned in the hunter	-	
2-19	Runnels	63/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
Comments:		ack in the golf ca	rt, changed po	e outside of his safe a sition without telling		
Prevention:	, <u> </u>	panions; know w	here others ar	stay within a safe zor e positioned at all tir		
3-25	Van Zandt	19/M	Rifle	Hog	No	Yes
Comments:	mistook victim for	a hog about 30 y arelessly shot his	yards away an s rifle. Victim	competition hunting a d despite two warnir was wearing a white	ngs not to sho	ot from a
Prevention:	firearm; stay within with hunting com	in a safe zone of t panions; never h positioned at all t	fire; never mo unt at night w	bsolutely sure of the ve into a hunter's zor ithout adequate light ze orange to be seen	ne of fire; com ting (when leg	municate (al); know
7-22	Burleson	42/M	Rifle	Hog	No	No
Comments:		cab where the sh	ooter was sitti	ng hogs from inside ong and into the bed wif his head.		
Prevention:	always make sure	it is unloaded ar	nd in a case, se	unt from a vehicle; w parate from the amm attend a hunter educa	nunition; hand	-

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self- Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)		
9-1	Eastland	35/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No		
Comments:		•	0 0	outside of his safe a victim in his waist a		Victim had		
Prevention:		oanions; know w	here others are	ys stay within a safe e positioned at all tir				
9-1	Medina	62/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No		
Comments:		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.						
Prevention:	with hunting comp	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		
Comments:	Victim was covered victim in his face, t	•	0 0	e outside of his safe z	zone of fire. P	ellets struck		
Prevention:		oanions; know w	here others are	ys stay within a safe e positioned at all tir ation course.				
9-3	Brown	UNK/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	UNK		
Comments:	0	y a pellet fired f	rom a group of	a building, out of sig dove hunters that v	•			
Prevention:				ys stay within a safe nters who are huntii		never move		
9-4	Motley	26/M	Shotgun	Rattlesnake	No	No		
Comments:		0		and there was an obs st of the victim who		0		
Prevention:				ys be sure to clean th attend a hunter edu				
10-10	Brown	54/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No		
Comments:		ot by a hunting g		e outside of his safe z ed closer to shooter.				
Prevention:	line and a proper f	all restraint devi where others ar	ce; stay within re positioned a	ys unload prior to cl a safe zone of fire; c t all times; follow sat ducation course.	ommunicate	with hunting		
10-22	Atascosa	33/M	Shotgun	Hog	Yes	No		
Comments:	Victim was climbing the chin with buck	-	rith a loaded sh	notgun and fell. He	carelessly sho	ot himself in		
Prevention:		ands only; use a l		ys unload prior to cl proper fall restraint	-			

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
Comments:	,	uck victim in the	hip/thigh and	d his loaded handgur d exited the knee. He	-	
Prevention:	firearms carefully	; treat every firea · including holste	rm as if it is lo r technique w	the second you are no baded; control the mu ith hammer strap and	zzle and use	a proper
10-29	Mills	10/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
Comments:				me outside of his safe roung hunter. Pellets		
Prevention:	hunters under 12	years of age (witl h hunting compa	hin voice cont nions; know w	ays stay within a safe rol) and mentor them where others are positon course.	while they h	unt;
11-3	Colorado	52/M	Shotgun	Pheasants/Quail	No	Yes
Comments:				e outside of his safe z tion. Pellets struck th		
Prevention:	, <u> </u>	panions; know w	here others a	ays stay within a safe re positioned at all tin cation course.		
11-5	Smith	36/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	Yes - CT
Comments:		d and discharged		e outside of his safe z Pellets ricocheted off		
Prevention:	with hunting com	panions; know w	here others a	ays stay within a safe re positioned at all tin net on water; attend a	nes; avoid lo	ose fitted
11-5	Gillespie	39/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
Comments:	Victim carelessly of traveled downward			le removing it from h see and foot.	is vehicle. T	he bullet
Prevention:	transporting a fire	earm, always mal dle firearms caref	ke sure it is un fully and with	the second you are no loaded and in a case, two hands to control ation course.	separate from	n the
11-5	Cass	31/M	Rifle	Deer	No	No
Comments:	_	ooter carelessly d	lischarged his	s loading his firearm rifle. Bullet struck vi		
Prevention:	only unloaded fire and in a case, sepa	earms in camp; warate from the ame; treat every fire	hen transport nmunition; har arm as if it wa	the second you are no ring a firearm, always adle firearms carefull as loaded; obey the law aducation course.	make sure it y and with tv	is unloaded vo hands to

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self- Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
11-6	Anderson	41/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
Comments:	discharged his rif	le a. Bullet struck	k him in the fo	paring for the morning oot. Victim was trying rm which the victim	g to handle a c	log that had
Prevention:	only unloaded fir and in a case, sep control the muzz	earms in camp; warate from the am le; control pets are	when transpor nmunition; ha ound firearms	the second you are n ting a firearm, always ndle firearms careful and ammunition an it was loaded; attend	s make sure it ly and with tv d put them in	is unloaded vo hands to proper
12-6	Polk	73/M	Shotgun	Deer	Yes	No
Comments:	Victim was climb in the thigh.	ing a tree stand w	-	shotgun and carelessl	y handled an	d shot himself
Prevention:		tands only; use a		ays unload prior to c a proper fall restrain		
12-16	Uvalde	42/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	No
Comments:	Victim was cover struck victim in le	•	inging on gan	ne outside of his safe	zone of fire. V	victim. Pellets
Prevention:		npanions; know w	where others a	ays stay within a safe re positioned at all tii		
12-18	Wise	39/M	Handgun	Deer	Yes	No
Comments:	Victim was climb	ing a tree stand w	vith a loaded l	nandgun and careless	sly shot himse	elf in the arm.
Prevention:	, <u> </u>	tands only; use a		ays unload prior to c a proper fall restrain		
12-21	Limestone	31/M	Shotgun	Hog	No	No
Comments:	Victim was dowr buckshot. A pello			m the shooter who w	as shooting at	t a hog using
Prevention:	, -	positioned at all t		nmunicate with hunti aze orange to be seen	-	
12-23	Kendall	44 /M	Shotgun	Quail	No	Yes
Comments:	Victim was cover struck victim in b	•		ne outside of his safe	zone of fire. V	ictim. Pellets
Prevention:		npanions; know w	where others a	ays stay within a safe re positioned at all ti cation course.		
12-29	Freestone	43/F	Shotgun	Waterfowl	Yes	No
Comments:				while on her way fro e of intoxicants or dru		
Prevention:		niques and contro	ol the muzzle	oad the second you a with two hands; obeyeducation course.	_	-