

2006
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



2006 Significant Factors

- **South Texas Quail Hunting incident involving Dick Cheney, Vice President of the United States, and Harry Whittington from Austin, garnered much attention for hunting accident awareness and prevention.**
- Careless handling while loading, transporting, removing from vehicles, crawling and running with loaded firearms.
- Squirrel, rabbit and non-game hunting incidents up.
- Hunter judgment mishaps down; skill and aptitude problems up.
- More teenage shooters involved in 2006 hunting incidents; less accidents in the 30-39-age category.
- Number of Hunter Education Graduates increased significantly.
- More self-inflicted injuries than in the past.

**HUNTING ACCIDENT DATA (1966-2006)
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	33,769
2004	29	1,091,178	2.7	31,171
2005	31	1,082,593	2.9	31,442
2006	32	1,115,772	2.9	29,532
TOTALS	2,649	43,442,268	6.1	742,940

- 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 1966-2006

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
2006	4	28	32
TOTALS	536	2,113	2,649

TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT TOTALS 2006

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	2004	2005	2006	VIOLATED GAME LAW	2004	2005	2006
Total Accidents	29	31	32		10 (34%)	6 (19%)	12 (38%)
Fatal	4	2	4				
Non-fatal	25	29	28				
ANIMAL HUNTED				EQUIPMENT TYPE			
Dove	11 (38%)	5 (16%)	6 (19%)	Rifles	9 (31%)	8 (26%)	11 (34%)
White-tailed Deer	6 (20%)	8 (26%)	6 (19%)	Shotguns	19 (65%)	18 (58%)	16 (50%)
Rabbit/Hare	0	0	4 (13%)	Handguns	1 (4%)	4 (13%)	4 (13%)
Feral Hog	5 (17%)	6 (19%)	4 (13%)	Muzzleloader	0	0	0
Quail/Pheasant	5 (17%)	7 (23%)	1 (3%)	Bow	0	1 (3%)	1 (3%)
Turkey	0	0	0	TOTAL	29(100%)	31(100%)	32(100%)
Ducks/Geese	1 (4%)	2 (6%)	3 (9%)	SHOOTER'S AGE			
Coyote	0	0	1 (3%)	0-9	1 (4%)	0	0
Squirrel	0	0	4 (12%)	10-19	2 (7%)	4 (13%)	10 (32%)
Misc. (Snake, Raccoon, Ram))	1 (4%)	3 (10%)	3 (9%)	20-29	7 (24%)	2 (6%)	4 (13%)
TOTAL	29 (100%)	31 (100%)	32 (100%)	30-39	5 (17%)	10 (33%)	2 (6%)
HUNTER JUDGMENT				40-49	4 (14%)	6 (19%)	7 (22%)
Victim out of sight of shooter/moved into line of fire	3	2	3	50-59	2 (7%)	4 (13%)	3 (9%)
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	9	13	5	60 & over	6 (20%)	4 (13%)	3 (9%)
Victim mistaken for game	2	1	2	Unknown	2 (7%)	1 (3%)	3 (9%)
TOTAL	14	16	10	TOTAL	29 (100%)	31 (100%)	32 (100%)
SAFETY & LAW VIOLATION				MISCELLANEOUS			
Removing/placing firearm in vehicle or stand	1	3	2	Obstruction in Barrel	0	1	0
Discharge of firearm in/on vehicle	3	4	1	Faulty Equipment	0	0	1
Improper Crossing of an obstacle; Running with firearm	0	1	1	TOTAL	0	1	1
Firearm fell from insecure rest/Using firearm as a club	1	0	1	SKILL AND APTITUDE			
TOTAL	5	8	6	Loading/unloading gun	0	0	0
SHOOTER HAD COMPLETED HUNTER ED.	3 (10%)	9 (29%)	13 (41%)	Careless handling	9	2	10
				Careless handling while climbing into/out of tree stand	0	3	0
				Dropped firearm	0	0	3
				Shooter stumbled and fell	1	1	2
				TOTAL	10	6	15
				SELF-INFLICTED	10 (34%)	11 (35%)	18 (56%)
				ALCOHOL/DRUGS A FACTOR	1 (4%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)

Hunting Accident Report Non-Firearm Related 2006

*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
Tree Stand Fall	1	No	Victim fell from treestand injuring his head and breaking his ribs; also suffered hypothermia.

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	1	Yes	12-Year old and 13-year old were playing with a pellet gun near Creedmoor (Travis County); the bb entered the younger boy's head through his eye
Firearms in Vehicle	1	No	Father was removing loaded rifle from pick-up when he carelessly discharged it; bullet struck his daughter in the arm.

2006 FATAL ACCIDENTS

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self- Inflicted?	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
9-12	Tom Green	44/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. As doves were flying in, victim stood up, in the line of fire of the shooter. He had just arrived on the scene in a golf cart. Victim was struck in the head by size 7 ½ pellets..					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always stay within a safe zone of fire; position yourselves so that you never move into another hunter's zone of fire; communicate with hunters in your hunting party; attend a hunter education course.					
11-11	Lipscomb	45/M	Rifle	Deer	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for a deer and carelessly discharged his .308 rifle towards the victim. Victim was about 260 yards away, in low light conditions and the shooter had frost on his scope.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; be absolutely sure of your target; use binoculars to properly identify game before raising the firearm to the target; handle firearms carefully; attend a hunter education course.					
12-2	Zavala	54/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter exited deer blind and carelessly handled and/or apparently dropped his loaded .270 rifle. Based on the investigation it looks like the butt struck the ground discharging the rifle. The bullet struck victim in the head.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload the second you are no longer hunting, especially while entering or exiting a blind/stand; handle firearms carefully; treat every firearm as if it was loaded; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
12-22	Waller	37/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim stood in the line of fire of the shooter, while both were shooting at low flying geese. Both were on a sloped dike adjacent to the wetland. Victim was struck in the head by size BB pellets. Shooter was in possession of marijuana and was violating the law at the time of the incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always stay within a safe zone of fire; position yourselves so that you never move into another hunter's zone of fire; communicate with hunters in your hunting party; remember that drugs/alcohol and hunting do not mix; always obey hunting and other laws; attend a hunter education course.					

2006 NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

1-1	Henderson	18/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook Labrador retriever from another hunting party for a hog and shot towards victim who was in the reeds behind the dog. Pellets struck victim in torso and upper legs.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; be absolutely sure of your target, and what is in front of and behind target; always stay within a safe zone of fire; use binoculars to properly identify game before raising the firearm to the target; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
1-1	Concho	51/M	Handgun	Rabbit	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his loaded handgun while hunting rabbits at night from inside his jeep. He had just drawn the gun from his holster. The bullet struck him in his lower left leg.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; handle firearms carefully; never hunt from a vehicle; when transporting a firearm, always make sure it is unloaded and in a case, separate from the ammunition; treat every firearm as if it was loaded; apply what was learned in hunter education.					

Hunter Ed.

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Graduate? (Shooter)
1-2	Victoria	17/M	Rifle	Rabbit	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	While hunting rabbits, shooter carelessly discharged rifle while muzzle was pointed at his feet. Firearm's trigger guard had been removed and victim claimed he thought gun was unloaded. Shooter was hunting without a license.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; always obey hunting laws and apply what was learned in hunter education.					
1-7	Smith	16/M	Shotgun	Coyote	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter turned towards a coyote howling, took his shotgun off safe, then stumbled. He carelessly discharged his shotgun while muzzle was pointed at his feet. Shooter was in violation of the hunter education law.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; control muzzle even when stumbling or falling; always obey hunting laws and attend a hunter education course.					
1-8	Medina	62/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged shotgun while muzzle was pointed at his feet. He claimed he was unfamiliar with the break open action on the shotgun he was using. Shooter was hunting without a license.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; be familiar with the equipment and firearms you are using; always obey hunting laws and attend a hunter education course.					
2-7	Knox	44/M	Rifle	Hog	Yes	Yes (CO)
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his rifle while using it as a club to dispatch a wounded hog. Bullet struck victim in his thigh.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; never use a firearm as a club; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
2-11	Kenedy	65/M	Shotgun	Quail	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim was returning from behind his hunting party, after he had retrieved a downed bird. Pellets struck victim to the right side of his head, neck and torso. Both were wearing blaze orange clothing.					
<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; always obey hunting laws and attend a hunter education course.					
3-25	Kinney	41/M	Shotgun	Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged shotgun while muzzle was pointed was resting on his boot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; be familiar with the equipment and firearms you are using; always obey hunting laws and attend a hunter education course.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
4-2	Wise	13/M	Rifle	Non-game	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his .22 rifle while muzzle was pointed at his feet. Shooter was unsupervised and had not completed hunter education.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; control muzzle even when stumbling or falling; always obey hunting laws and attend a hunter education course.					
4-29	Kendell	21/M	Rifle	Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter stumbled and fell and carelessly discharged his loaded rifle while chasing a hog into the brush. Bullet struck him in his lower leg. Shooter had not completed hunter education.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; control muzzle even when stumbling or falling, and do not run with a loaded firearm; always obey hunting laws and attend a hunter education course.					
5-27	Coleman	22/M	Handgun	Rabbit	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his handgun while the muzzle was pointed towards his lower legs. Shooter had been drinking and had not completed hunter education.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; remember that drugs/alcohol and hunting do not mix; always obey hunting laws and attend a hunter education course.					
7-24	Edwards	27/M	Bow	Hog	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was walking with a nocked arrow and tripped and fell towards the victim walking in front of him. Broadhead tip struck victim in lower back causing severe bleeding.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle or nocked arrow in a safe direction at all times; handle sporting arms carefully; never nock an arrow until ready to shoot; never nock an arrow while walking through the brush, especially when others are nearby; apply what was learned in bowhunter education.					
9-2	Sabine	UNK/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was out of sight of and covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. The victim sought immediate medical attention and never identified the unknown shooter.					
<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 while walking into and out of a dove or waterfowl situation, especially when it is unknown who might be in the vicinity of your stand, post or blind.					
9-3	Shackelford	16/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter stumbled and fell and carelessly discharged his loaded shotgun while the muzzle was pointed at his feet.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; control muzzle even when stumbling or falling; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
9-9	Jack	15/M	Handgun	Rabbit	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and victim were riding 4-wheelers hunting rabbits and varmints at night. Shooter shot while victim was in the line of fire. Bullet ricocheted and struck victim in the buttocks. Both were unsupervised and had not completed hunter education.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; never hunt from a vehicle/ATV; know what is in front of and behind the target; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; when transporting a firearm, always make sure it is unloaded and cased, separate from the ammunition; always obey hunting laws and attend a hunter education course.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
9-16	Comanche	UNK/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was out of sight of and covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim sought immediate medical attention and the shooter, who was among a very large group of hunters, was not properly identified.					
<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 while walking into and out of a dove or waterfowl situation, especially when it is unknown who might be in the vicinity of your stand, post or blind; never hunt in large groups.					
9-22	Medina	UNK/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was out of sight of and covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim sought immediate medical attention and the shooter was not properly identified.					
<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 while walking into and out of a dove or waterfowl situation, especially when it is unknown who might be in the vicinity of your stand, post or blind.					
10-1	Bowie	49/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook victim for a squirrel on the side of a tree and carelessly fired his shotgun. Both were hunting in a large group.					
<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.					
10-22	Titus	17/M	Rifle	Squirrel	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter got dirt in the barrel by carrying the rifle improperly and while wiping inside of muzzle he carelessly discharged rifle. The bullet went through his the palm of his hand. Shooter was hunting without a license and had not completed hunter education.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; keep muzzles free from dirt and obstructions; clean barrels from breech end; always obey hunting laws and attend a hunter education course.					
11-6	Young	60/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his loaded rifle while removing it from his vehicle. The bullet ricocheted off of vehicle, sending shrapnel into the victim who was standing on the other side.					
<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; never walk in front of a muzzle; treat every firearm as if it was loaded; attend a hunter education course.					
11-11	Houston	11/M	Shotgun	Non-game	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his shotgun while muzzle was pointed at the victim who was standing nearby. Shooter had tried to chamber a shotshell when he careless fired the already loaded firearm. Shooters were unsupervised and had not completed hunter education.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; be familiar with the equipment and firearms you are using; always obey hunting laws and attend a hunter education course.					
Date		Shooter's			Self-	Hunter Ed.
					Inflicted	Graduate?

	County	Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Inflicted	(Shooter)
11-12	Matagorda	20/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was lying on the ground hunting waterfowl with the muzzle of his shotgun pointed towards his feet. When he went to remove safety, he carelessly discharged it.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; be familiar with the equipment and firearms you are using; apply what is learned in the hunter education course.					
11-24	Coke	52/M	Shotgun	Birds	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter lifted a soft case containing his .410 shotgun from his pickup. The zipper was left open, and the gun slid out. He carelessly grabbed the muzzle trying to catch the gun and it discharged-- sending pellets through his fingers.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; store firearms unloaded and in secure cases when transporting/storing them; attend a hunter education course.					
11-26	Cottle	42/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his loaded rifle while removing it from his ATV rack. The bullet struck him in his right forearm.					
<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; treat every firearm as if it was loaded; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
12-3	Hardin	13/M	Rifle	Squirrel	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Pointing at a squirrel, a 12-year old victim carelessly moved his hand in front of the muzzle of the shooter who was shooting at another squirrel. Shooters were unsupervised, but shooter had completed hunter education.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; wear blaze orange to be seen; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
12-5	Shelby	17/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was crawling on the ground when he carelessly discharged his shotgun while the muzzle was pointed at his foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; apply what is learned in the hunter education course.					
12-28	Hardeman	37 /M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	While attempting to chamber a cartridge, shooter's rifle malfunctioned and discharged, sending a piece of the action into his abdomen.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; inspect equipment and factory/reloaded ammunition to ensure that there is no noticeable problem; do not attempt to modify or alter the gun yourself; take firearms to a gunsmith when there are problems; handle firearms carefully; attend a hunter education course.					
12-30	Edwards	47/M	Handgun	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was going to the bathroom; and when he pulled his pants down, his loaded .44 revolver fell and the struck a rock. The bullet struck victim in the lower back leg.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; unload the second you are no longer hunting; use proper carry techniques and secure holsters; when in use, carry holstered revolvers/hammers over an empty chamber; attend a hunter education course.					