

2011 TEXAS HUNTING INCIDENTS ANALYSIS



Federal Aid Project
W-104-S



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

TEXAS HUNTING INCIDENT 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 – incident was a caused by lack of judgment
- Had over 10 years of hunting experience
- If self-inflicted – handled firearm carelessly in a stand/vehicle; carried loaded firearm in/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)
- Incident occurred towards dusk; fatigue a factor
- Incident occurred on weekend during September or November



2011 Significant Factors

- **RECORD LOW for total accidents**
- **Fatalities** down by two in 2011
- **Mistaken for Game** incidents up in 2011
- **Feral hog** incidents highest in 2011
- Incidents involving those **under 40** down; **over 40** significantly up
- Fewer **hunter education graduates** in the incident data
- **Self-inflicted accidents** less than 50%
- **Number of alcohol** incidents up in 2011.

TEXAS HUNTING INCIDENTS 1966-2011 (Mandatory Hunter Education)

CALENDAR YEAR	FATAL (555)	NON-FATAL (2,227)	TOTAL (2,782)
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
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
2007	4	26	30
2008	6	20	26
2009	3	26	29
2010	4	21	25
2011	**2**	21	23

TEXAS HUNTING INCIDENT TOTALS 2011

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

INCIDENTS	2009	2010	2011	VIOLATED GAME LAW	2009	2010	2011
Total Accidents	29	25	23		12 (41%)	7 (28%)	5 (22%)
Fatal	3	4	2				
Non-fatal	26	21	21				
ANIMAL HUNTED				EQUIPMENT TYPE			
Dove	4 (14%)	7 (28%)	3 (13%)	Rifles	16 (55%)	8 (32%)	11 (48%)
White-tailed Deer	6 (21%)	2 (8%)	3 (13%)	Shotguns	11 (38%)	16 (64%)	9 (39%)
Rabbit/Hare	2 (7%)	1 (4%)	2 (9%)	Handguns	2 (7%)	1 (4%)	2 (9%)
Feral Hog/Peccary	6 (21%)	7 (28%)	8 (35%)	Muzzleloader	0	0	0
Quail/Pheasant	2 (7%)	3 (12%)	1 (4%)	Bow	0	0	1 (4%)
Turkey	2 (7%)	0	1 (4%)	TOTAL	29(100%)	25(100%)	23 (100%)
Ducks/Geese	1 (3%)	2 (8%)	1 (4%)	SHOOTER'S AGE			
Coyote	2 (7%)	0	0	0-9	0	0	0
Squirrel/Prairie Dog	1 (3%)	1 (4%)	2 (9%)	10-19	8 (28%)	7 (28%)	4 (17%)
Nongame birds/snake	3 (10%)	2 (8%)	0	20-29	5 (17%)	5 (20%)	1 (4%)
Raccoon	0	0	2 (9%)	30-39	6 (21%)	2 (8%)	2 (9%)
TOTAL	29 (100%)	25 (100%)	23 (100%)	40-49	3 (10%)	2 (8%)	6 (27%)
HUNTER JUDGMENT				50-59	4 (14%)	5 (20%)	5 (22%)
Victim out of sight of shooter/moved into line of fire	2	1	3	60 & over	3 (10%)	3 (12%)	4 (17%)
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	4	7	2	Unknown	0	1 (4%)	1 (4%)
Victim mistaken for game	0	1	2	TOTAL	29 (100%)	25 (100%)	23 (100%)
TOTAL	6	9	7	MISCELLANEOUS/ TREE STAND FACTOR			
Removing/placing firearm in vehicle	1	1	1	Ricochet	0	1	0
Discharge of firearm in/on vehicle	6	2	5	Obstruction in Barrel and Faulty Equipment	1	2	1
Improper Crossing of an obstacle; Walking with loaded firearm	0	1	0	TOTAL	1	3	1
Alcohol, drugs or horseplay	0	1	2	SKILL AND APTITUDE			
TOTAL	7	5	8	Loading/unloading gun	0	1	0
SHOOTER HAD COMPLETED HUNTER ED.	11 (38%)	6 (24%)	4 (17%)	Improper crossing	0	1	0
				Careless handling	12	4	6
				Dropped firearm	2	1	0
				Shooter stumbled and fell	1	1	0
				Careless Bow Handling	0	0	1
				TOTAL	15	8	7
				SELF-INFLICTED	17 (59%)	13 (52%)	11 (48%)
				ALCOHOL/DRUGS A FACTOR	0	1	4

2011 FATAL INCIDENTS (A)*

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
5-20	Hockley	61/M	Rifle	Rabbit	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and victim were hunting from vehicle. Shooter stood on threshold of driver's side doorway with a .22 rifle lying across cab when 9-yr. old stuck her head out of passenger side window in front of the muzzle – as the shooter fired. Victim was struck in her forehead.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions and know where everyone is positioned at all times; never hunt from/on a vehicle; handle firearms carefully; complete hunter education.					
11-29	Gregg	58/M	Shotgun	Feral Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	While apparently checking his hog trap, shooter carelessly discharged his loaded shotgun, safety in the off position, towards the side of his head. There was no exit wound.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; unload firearms before setting them against a stable rest; complete hunter education.					

2011 NON-FATAL INCIDENTS (A)*

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
1-1	Uvalde	57/M	Handgun	Raccoon	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly laid his loaded, fully-cocked, handgun on a hog trap after attempting to shoot a raccoon that was in the trap. Firearm discharged as he slammed the trap door shut. Bullet struck him in his upper right arm. Shooter drank 3-4 beers prior to incident.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload firearm when no longer expecting to take a shot; handle firearms carefully; alcohol and firearms do not mix; apply what was learned in hunter education; obey the law.					
1-22	Zapata	67/M	Rifle	Rabbit	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was fishing from in a boat near shoreline when he was struck in the arm from a .22 bullet fired by a shooter about 300 yards away and hunting rabbits.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always know what is beyond and in front of the target and how far a bullet or shot travels; never fire at tops of hillsides or wherever a bullet can escape beyond the field of view; select a safe shooting area; complete hunter education.					
1-30	Terry	42/M	Rifle	Feral Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his loaded rifle towards his right foot as he was dismounting his 4-wheeler and unslinging his strap from his right shoulder. The bullet struck him in his right foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; never hunt from a moving vehicle even if it is legal; handle firearms carefully; for transport, store unloaded firearm in a secure case separate from ammunition; complete hunter education.					

***(A) - Firearm/Bow & Hunting Related - An accident/incident resulting from the discharge of a firearm or bow while hunting, which causes the injury or death of any person(s).**

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
2-13	Red River	57/M	Bow	Feral Hog	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter's hunting arrow fell from its quiver and he carelessly walked over it. The broad head point stuck him in his lower left leg. He applied a tourniquet and was airlifted to hospital.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always carry arrows and a covered quiver and in a secure manner; apply what was learned in hunter and bow hunter education.					
3-15	Milam	19/M	Rifle	Feral Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of a safe zone of fire. Victim was several feet in front of shooter; both firing at a hog that was charging towards them -- after the hog was bayed by their dogs. The bullet struck victim in the hand which he moved down and in front of the muzzle as the shooter fired.					
<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; never fire from behind others; complete hunter education.					
4-2	Wise	32/M	Shotgun	Turkey	No	Yes (MO)
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was calling and carelessly mistook the victim for a turkey coming towards him down a trail. He fired his shotgun from about 30 yards. Victim was wearing maroon and blue colored clothing which shooter misidentified as a turkey's head bobbing up and down.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; be sure to positively identify the target prior to raising the sporting arm towards it; always use binoculars; never wear clothing that can be mistaken for colors of game animals; avoid approaching gobbler's call unless you already know it is a turkey; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
4-5	Kleberg	49/M	Rifle	Feral Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly handled and dropped firearm as he shot at a hog from his vehicle's door, using the window frame as a rest. The bullet from his .270 rifle struck him in his wrist.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; Handle firearms carefully and seek a secure rest outside of the vehicle; never hunt from/on a vehicle; handle firearms carefully; complete hunter education.					
6-12	Hockley	62/M	Rifle	Prairie Dog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly fired his rifle from an elevated platform in his pickup bed while victim stood on the trailer platform attached to pickup. Bullet struck metal frame on platform and the shrapnel struck victim in his hand and arm.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; never hunt from/on a vehicle; handle firearms carefully and seek a secure rest outside of the vehicle; always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; never fire from behind others; never shoot from a rest where the muzzle lies behind the rest or frame; complete hunter education.					
8-7	Panola	47/F	Rifle	Feral Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged her loaded rifle after strapping it into a haul line and lowering it from her stand. The .223 bullet struck her in her upper arm.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always unload after hunting and prior to exiting stand; handle firearms carefully and use haul line when lowering it from an elevated stand; complete hunter education.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
9-3	Gillespie	44/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his shotgun towards victim standing 10 to 15 feet away –while they were watching for doves. Shot struck victim in torso. Shooter had been drinking and registered intoxicated (.095) by DPS trooper during a portable breath test.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; control the muzzle at all times; use a proper carry at all times; complete hunter education; obey the law.					
9-11	Hidalgo	14/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victims, the father and sister of the shooter, were covered by the 14-year old shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Shooter had not hunting license or hunter education.					
<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; complete hunter education; obey the law.					
10-1	Nacogdoches	23/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was bow hunting from a tree stand out of sight of shooter, who fired twice at a squirrel in a tree in front of victim.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; make sure to identify the target clearly and what is in front of and behind the target before raising the sporting arm for a shot; know where others are positioned at all times; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
10-8	Duval	UNK/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was struck by three pellets fired from one of many shooters in an adjoining property firing at dove outside of a safe zone of fire.					
<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; never fire across property lines or towards another property within the effective range of the arm; obey the law.					
11-6	Nueces	52/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was struck in his eye by shrapnel from a blown up firearm, due to faulty ammunition.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always inspect firearm and ammunition prior to shooting/hunting; use proper, matching ammunition for both the firearm and the quarry; clean gun prior to and after use; have it checked by a gunsmith anytime there are defects noted.					
11-25	Hardeman	41/M	Rifle	Feral Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter mistook the victim for a wild hog. Bullet from 25.06 struck victim in the groin. Victim was wearing camouflage and was part of another group of hunters moving towards shooter's party in a public river bottom.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; be sure to positively identify the target prior to raising the sporting arm towards it; always use binoculars; never wear clothing that can be mistaken for colors of game animals; wear blaze orange to be seen; complete hunter education.					
11-27	Houston	13/M	Shotgun	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Young shooter rested the muzzle of his loaded shotgun and carelessly pulled the trigger and discharged it as the shotgun slipped from his grasp.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; always unload when you no longer expect to take a shot; never use the firearm/muzzle as a cane or crutch, especially placing it on your toe; complete hunter education.					
		Shooter's			Self-	Hunter Ed.

Date	County	Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Inflicted	Graduate? (Shooter)
12-3	Dallam	57/M	Shotgun	Pheasant	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his firearm while unloading it at the back of his car, with the muzzle pointed towards his companion sitting in a back seat.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; handle firearms carefully; unload the firearm as soon as you are no longer hunting and prior to placing it in the vehicle; control the muzzle and use a proper carry at all times; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; complete hunter education.					
12-5	Austin	70/M	Rifle	Raccoon	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his rifle while unloading it; just as his hunting companion moved in front of him. The .22 cal bullet grazed victim's head, exiting through his hard hat.					
<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; communicate with your hunting companions; never walk in front of the muzzle of a firearm; complete hunter education.					
12-6	Robertson	19/M	Rifle	Feral Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and victim were hunting from vehicle. Shooter stood on threshold of passenger's side doorway with a .308 rifle lying across cab. He carelessly discharged his rifle with the muzzle resting in front of a metal ridge. The shrapnel from the bullet struck victim in the head. Victim was sitting in the driver's seat. Shooter had been drinking.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions and know where everyone is positioned at all times; never hunt from/on a vehicle; handle firearms carefully; recognize that muzzle is lower than scope and cannot be placed behind an object or on the ground; alcohol and hunting/shooting do not mix; complete hunter education.					
12-25	Jim Wells	34/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter stood on the ladder of his elevated stand and fired his .30/30 rifle towards a deer with the muzzle next to a piece of rebar on the stand. Shrapnel struck him in the face which he thought was the scope. Failing to learn from his first mistake, he fired a second shot and more shrapnel struck him in his stomach. Shooter was in violation of the hunter education law.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; hunt from within a secure elevated stand rather than outside of it on the steps; recognize that muzzle is lower than scope and cannot be placed behind an object or on the ground; complete hunter education.					
12-27	Coke	48/M	Handgun	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his handgun while holstering it. Bullet from his .40 cal. Semi-auto handgun struck him in the palm of his offhand held under the muzzle of the loaded handgun. Shooter had been drinking prior to the time of the incident.					
<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; select a safe shooting area where there is a proper field of view; alcohol and hunting/shooting do not mix; complete hunter education.					

2011 Non-Firearm/Bow Related (B) **

**** 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 a Tree Stand <i>Deer</i>	1 (40 M) No Hunt. Education	No	Victim fell 15 feet after he suffered a coughing fit; and was not wearing TMA Fall Restraint equipment.

2010 Non-Hunting Related (C) ***

***** 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
Improper Powder Substitution; blown gun	1 (59 M) Muzzle Loader	No	Shooter suffered shrapnel wounds on left forearm from a blown muzzleloader caused from faulty powder (smokeless instead of black powder)

MONTHLY TOTALS-HUNTER EDUCATION

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
1972	0	0	66	100	137	103	232	195	300	378	385	223	2119
1973	166	147	208	318	254	238	180	283	526	946	820	228	4314
1974	287	227	509	334	417	263	361	512	688	1499	574	423	6094
1975	653	670	470	602	607	474	277	505	929	1417	1159	768	8531
1976	808	660	770	349	715	541	160	379	1428	1454	1854	925	10043
1977	835	744	848	675	1008	603	515	526	1335	1708	1448	1053	11298
1978	740	734	1157	327	464	781	242	877	1338	1874	1326	1030	10890
1979	606	558	827	528	1071	644	226	648	1125	2172	1053	1317	10775
1980	921	767	650	689	1205	494	345	344	1892	2085	1397	1377	12166
1981	1060	333	901	453	1051	903	427	642	1654	2148	2365	1250	13187
1982	836	729	595	419	780	948	551	875	1451	2832	1825	1482	13323
1983	1173	643	1089	529	935	724	257	844	1439	3035	1545	1919	14131
1984	1351	901	442	598	754	516	347	608	1149	3051	2078	1257	13052
1985	450	425	797	376	799	372	380	1009	2135	2705	1087	749	11284
1986	553	389	67	730	1160	501	378	1314	2246	2301	1163	393	11195
1987	542	397	509	505	334	283	415	931	2174	1384	775	362	8611
1988	448	929	596	526	1158	644	865	2391	2624	3312	2692	1858	18043
1989	1392	1757	1738	1567	1561	2789	1480	4385	4624	6043	6055	3317	36708
1990	1197	584	838	1005	936	1236	705	2814	3140	5202	5210	1723	24590
1991	1030	1013	1008	805	888	1086	773	2499	4555	3844	5374	5807	28682
1992	1137	902	682	0	0	3224	799	2074	2765	5604	5079	3187	25453
1993	4772	2007	916	806	945	1282	681	2328	2386	1289	3436	6094	26942
1994	1808	4111	3015	2021	1015	1025	1841	2798	1931	2378	2900	10129	34972
1995	4549	572	1995	896	1236	1482	1253	913	2492	4526	4798	6503	31215
1996	2314	1552	761	1032	1030	1081	740	490	1309	2932	5485	6272	24998
1997	3950	4107	988	826	468	171	518	1110	2306	7513	3767	4901	30625
1998	499	763	881	578	888	847	1358	5719	6479	8148	3116	1776	31052
1999	4581	4332	3387	1984	790	1188	1095	2267	1545	4867	2349	9390	37775
2000	4734	3810	618	2048	772	1127	1000	1891	1573	6563	9045	5868	39049
2001	2345	1414	953	1018	843	1017	1057	1615	4572	3102	6318	3808	28062
2002	6968	81	76	2479	1249	1128	931	2455	5768	7939	5036	3737	37847
2003	2764	1126	1394	869	546	1088	663	3274	5278	8950	5659	2158	33769
2004	2102	1078	1346	848	786	1101	865	2689	4914	6564	5571	3307	31171
2005	1733	895	1145	970	541	1151	876	2347	5359	6597	6338	3490	31442
2006	1021	832	1136	797	752	1071	632	1945	5165	4523	7684	3974	29532
2007	1679	793	1318	668	524	892	1360	4107	5256	6376	5309	2678	30960
2008	1602	976	807	1090	471	949	1648	3770	6403	5959	6205	2428	32308
2009	3228	1650	1464	1243	910	1596	1847	4935	7778	8466	6149	4614	43880
2010	1799	1263	1498	1055	924	1346	1744	4338	8354	8377	6823	4241	41762
2011	2138	1198	1469	1062	884	1486	729	3297	5600	9272	8425	8085	43645

GRAND TOTAL 935,518



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