



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

ANNUAL HUNTING INCIDENT REPORT

LICENSE YEAR 2022

April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023



Photo by Todd Butler

A successful hunt, as shown above, is defined by the memories made during a safe time afield

Safe hunting is no accident

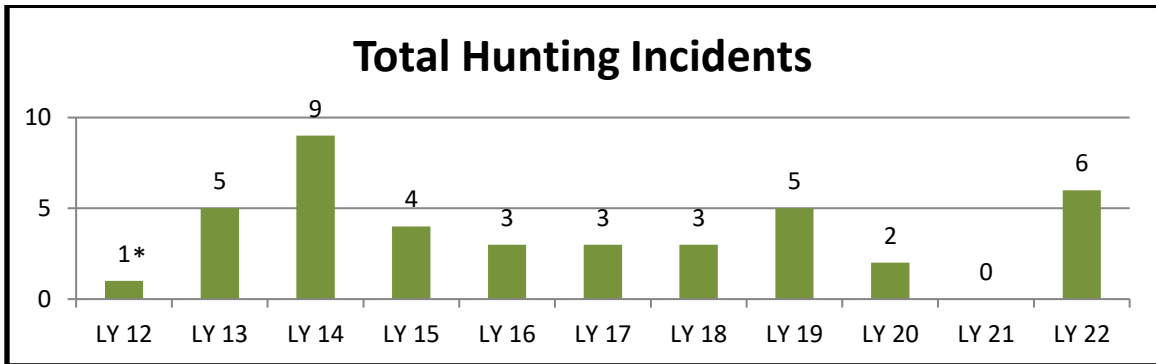
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HUNTING INCIDENT DATA SUMMARY

April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

Total number of Hunting Incidents: 6

TOTAL INCIDENTS			
	Fatal	Non-fatal	Total
	0	6	6
SPECIES PURSUED AT TIME OF INCIDENT			
Bear	0	1	1
Deer/elk	0	1	1
Waterfowl	0	0	0
Turkey	0	1	1
Upland Birds	0	1	1
Other or unknown	0	2	2
LOCATION			
Eastern Washington	0	4	4
Western Washington	0	2	2
INCIDENT TYPE			
Self-inflicted	0	2	2
Shot by person in same party	0	2	2
Shot by someone outside of party	0	2	2
Undetermined	0	0	0
HUNTING EQUIPMENT			
Shotgun	0	3	3
Rifle	0	3	3
Handgun	0	0	0
Muzzleloader	0	0	0
Archery	0	0	0
Crossbow	0	0	0



* Between 2012 and 2013 WDFW began tabulating incidents by license year (LY) as opposed to fiscal year (FY). No incidents were double counted during this conversion.

NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

Cause: Hunter Judgement Mistake

Shooter:	57-year-old male	Victim:	35-year-old male
Hunting Equipment:	Shotgun	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	Yakima	Hunter Orange:	No
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Unknown	Date of Incident:	04/17/2022

Shooter was out turkey hunting with victim and thought he saw a bird approaching from the north. Shooter stated he took a shot thinking that the victim was further to the north. Victim was shot in the face, head, and near his spinal cord.

Cause: Hunter Judgement Mistake

Shooter:	Unknown	Victim:	40-year-old male
Hunting Equipment:	Rifle	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	Walla Walla	Hunter Orange:	No
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Unknown	Date of Incident:	08/05/2022

The victim shot at a bear and then hiked to the location of the bear he shot while his hunting partner guided him with binoculars. The hunting partner stated he saw the victim get shot by an unknown shooter in the lower right leg.

Cause: Safety Rule Violation

Shooter:	36-year-old male	Victim:	Self
Hunting Equipment:	Rifle	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	Ferry	Hunter Orange:	Unknown
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Yes	Date of Incident:	10/01/2022

Victim was attempting to load the firearm into an internal scabbard of a backpack when the firearm went off striking his left hand.

Cause: Hunter Judgement Mistake

Shooter:	Unknown	Victim:	63-year-old male
Hunting Equipment:	Shotgun	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	King	Hunter Orange:	Yes
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Unknown	Date of Incident:	09/24/2022

Victim was pheasant hunting and was shot by another hunter in the head. Victim did not report incident until three weeks later.

Cause: Mechanical Failure

Shooter:	23-year-old female	Victim:	Self
Hunting Equipment:	Rifle	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	Okanogan	Hunter Orange:	Unknown
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Yes	Date of Incident:	10/19/2022

Victim was shooting her rifle when the stock exploded causing extensive facial injuries.

Cause: Hunter Judgement Mistake

Shooter:	55-year-old male	Victim:	80-year-old male
Hunting Equipment:	Shotgun	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	Pacific	Hunter Orange:	No
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Unknown	Date of Incident:	11/10/2022

Victim was shot in his left arm as he was working on his car in his driveway. Shooter was shooting in a field across from the victim's house and shot multiple times at a bull elk in the field. The direction of the fire lined up with the residence of the victim.



Photos clockwise starting with top left: Bob Sowers, Alfonso Jimenez, Mason Hagins, and Brett Cooley

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Ten Firearm Safety Rules

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and under control.
2. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire. Use your safety, but remember that safeties sometimes fail.
4. Be sure of your target and what lies beyond before firing.
5. Never place or carry a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
6. Never use a firearm unless you are familiar with how it works. If you need an owner's manual, write to the manufacturer.
7. Never cross a fence, climb a tree, cross a stream or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.
8. Never point at anything you do not want to shoot.
9. Unload firearms when not in use. Store firearms and ammunition separately.
10. Never use alcohol (or drugs) before or during shooting.



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