



Washington Department of
FISH & WILDLIFE

ANNUAL HUNTING INCIDENT REPORT

LICENSE YEAR 2023

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024



Photo by Erica Trager

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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WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife – Hunter Education Division

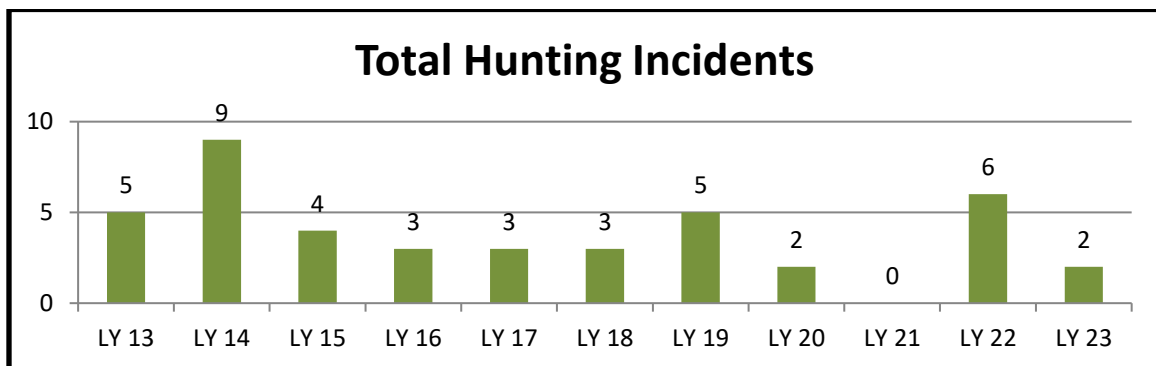
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HUNTING INCIDENT DATA SUMMARY

April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Total number of Hunting Incidents: 2

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



NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

Cause: Hunter Judgement Mistake

Shooter:	30 and 35-year-old males	Victim:	30 and 35-year-old males
Hunting Equipment:	Shotgun	Type:	Non-fatal
County:	Snohomish	Hunter Orange:	Yes
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Yes	Date of Incident:	10/05/2023

Two hunters of different parties swung on a flushing pheasant and didn't check in front of and behind their target before firing. Both the 30- and 35-year-old involved in this incident were struck by pellets, but no pellets penetrated their skin.

FATAL INCIDENTS

Cause: Hunter Judgement Mistake

Shooter:	29-year-old male	Victim:	52-year-old-male
Hunting Equipment:	Shotgun	Type:	Fatal
County:	San Juan	Hunter Orange:	Yes
Hunter Ed Graduate:	Yes	Date of Incident:	10/05/2023

Shooter shot at a deer in a crowded area and missed, hitting the victim. The injury resulted in a fatal wound.



Photos by: PK Hocog, John Pleau, and Jason Ramsey

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.



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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