



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

# ANNUAL HUNTING INCIDENT REPORT

## LICENSE YEAR 2016

*April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017*



*Photo by Casey McKern*

*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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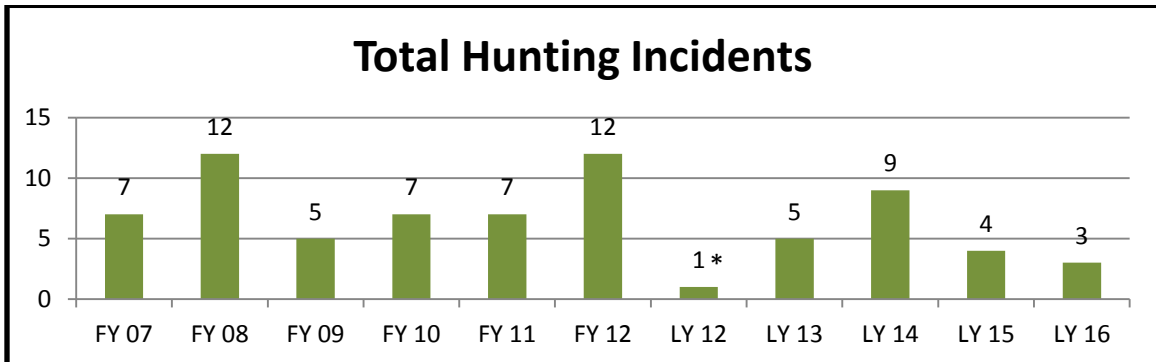
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# HUNTING INCIDENT DATA SUMMARY

April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

Total number of Hunting Incidents: 3

<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>			
	Fatal	Non-fatal	Total
	0	3	3
<b>SPECIES PURSUED AT TIME OF INCIDENT</b>			
Bear	0	0	0
Deer/elk	0	1	1
Waterfowl	0	1	1
Turkey	0	1	1
Upland Birds	0	0	0
Other or unknown	0	0	0
<b>LOCATION</b>			
Eastern Washington	0	3	3
Western Washington	0	0	0
<b>INCIDENT TYPE</b>			
Self-inflicted	0	1	1
Shot by person in same party	0	1	1
Shot by someone outside of party	0	1	1
Undetermined	0	0	0
<b>HUNTING EQUIPMENT</b>			
Shotgun	0	2	2
Rifle	0	1	1
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: Failure to identify target

<b>Shooter:</b>	49 year old male	<b>Victim:</b>	57 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Shotgun	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Spokane	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	Unknown	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	4/15/2016

Shooter was shooting uphill toward turkeys that were moving in the open and did not see the other hunter.

## Cause: Loaded firearm in vehicle

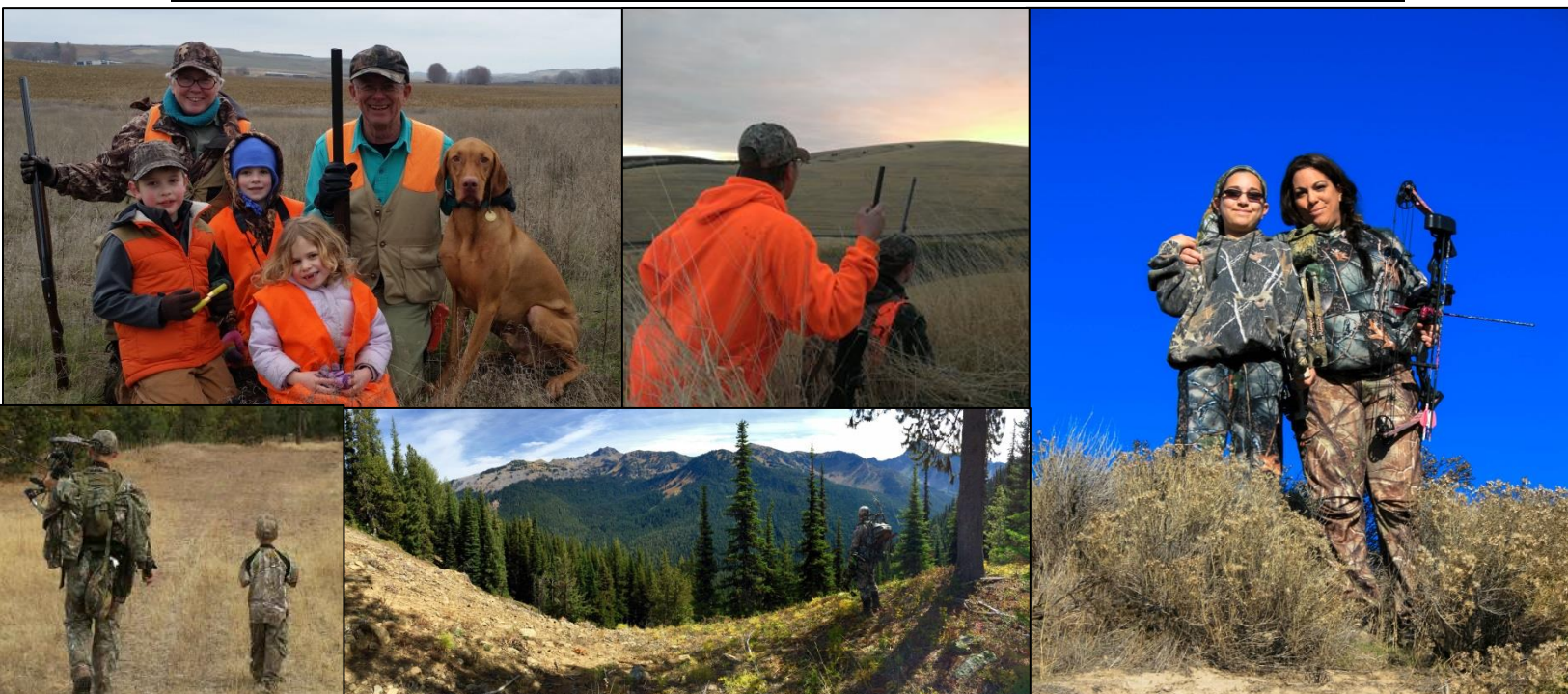
<b>Shooter:</b>	43 year old male	<b>Victim:</b>	Self
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Rifle	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Walla Walla	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	Yes
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	Yes	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	10/16/2016

Shooter had rifle pointed at the floorboard and when he moved to exit the vehicle his rifle discharged into his foot and the passenger door.

## Cause: Failure to maintain muzzle control

<b>Shooter:</b>	17 year old male	<b>Victim:</b>	14 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Shotgun	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Douglas	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	Yes	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	12/29/2016

Shooter was walking near some brush with improper muzzle control when a branch snagged the trigger, discharging the shotgun into the victim's leg 15-25 feet away.



Photos by Mike Wise, Mark Peaslee, Eric Wyatt, Chuck Lathrope, and Ryan Driver

## **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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*If you need further assistance or information, please contact the Olympia office of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: (360) 902-2349, or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), (360) 902-2207.*