



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

# ANNUAL HUNTING INCIDENT REPORT

## LICENSE YEAR 2017

*April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018*



*Photo by Joey McCanna, WDFW Staff*

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

**Safe hunting is no accident**

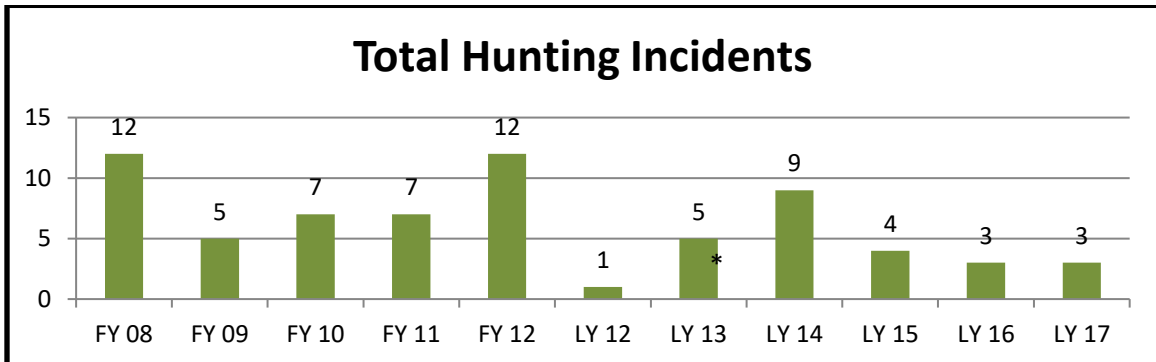
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# HUNTING INCIDENT DATA SUMMARY

April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Total number of Hunting Incidents: 3

TOTAL INCIDENTS			
	Fatal	Non-fatal	Total
	0	3	3
SPECIES PURSUED AT TIME OF INCIDENT			
Bear	0	0	0
Deer/elk	0	2	2
Waterfowl	0	0	0
Turkey	0	0	0
Upland Birds	0	1	1
Other or unknown	0	0	0
LOCATION			
Eastern Washington	0	2	2
Western Washington	0	1	1
INCIDENT TYPE			
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
HUNTING EQUIPMENT			
Shotgun	0	2	2
Rifle	0	0	0
Handgun	0	0	0
Muzzleloader	0	1	1
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 maintain muzzle control

<b>Shooter:</b>	28 year old male	<b>Victim:</b>	Self
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Muzzleloader	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Yakima	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	Yes	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	10/12/2017

Shooter was loading his truck for the afternoon hunt and grabbed his muzzleloader which got caught on a part of the truck discharging the firearm into his forearm.

## Cause: Failure to identify what lies beyond before firing

<b>Shooter:</b>	50 year old male	<b>Victim:</b>	58 year old female
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Shotgun	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Pend Oreille	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	No
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	No	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	10/15/2017

Shooter was shooting at deer in the direction of a neighbor's house. The slug entered the neighbor's house and struck the female neighbor in the knee.

## Cause: Failure to maintain muzzle control

<b>Shooter:</b>	45 year old male	<b>Victim:</b>	66 year old male
<b>Hunting Equipment:</b>	Shotgun	<b>Type:</b>	Non-fatal
<b>County:</b>	Snohomish	<b>Hunter Orange:</b>	Yes
<b>Hunter Ed Graduate:</b>	Yes	<b>Date of Incident:</b>	10/29/2017

Shooter placed his shotgun on the ground to retrieve a pheasant from his dog. His hunting partner came to his location and the excited dog stepped on the shotgun, discharging it into the victim's foot.



Photos by Cody Nelson, Marc Stewart, Lucas Gilbert, Todd Butler, and Bill Cogley

## **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.*