

2010 TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS ANALYSIS



Federal Aid Project
W-104-S



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

TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT 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 – swung shotgun on game outside of safe zone of fire
- 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)
- Accident occurred towards dusk; fatigue a factor
- Accident occurred on weekend during September or November



2010 Significant Factors

- **RECORD LOW** for total accidents
- Fatalities up by one in 2010
- **Swinging on game outside of safe zone** the #1 cause of accidents in Texas
- **Shotgun** incidents up in 2010
- **Feral hog** incidents up in 2010
- Fewer **hunter education graduates** in the incident data and one incident where alcohol was a factor.
- **Self-inflicted accidents** over 50%
- **Number of law violations** at time of incidents significant.

TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS 1966-2010 (Mandatory Hunter Education)

CALENDAR YEAR	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL
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
TOTALS	553	2,206	2,759

TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT TOTALS 2010

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

ACCIDENTS	2008	2009	2010	VIOLATED GAME LAW	2008	2009	2010
Total Accidents	26	29	25		7 (27%)	12 (41%)	7 (28%)
Fatal	6	3	4				
Non-fatal	20	26	21				
ANIMAL HUNTED				EQUIPMENT TYPE			
Dove	7 (27%)	4 (14%)	7 (28%)	Rifles	9 (35%)	16 (55%)	8 (32%)
White-tailed Deer	5 (19%)	6 (21%)	2 (8%)	Shotguns	13 (50%)	11 (38%)	16 (64%)
Rabbit/Hare	1 (4%)	2 (7%)	1 (4%)	Handguns	4 (15%)	2 (7%)	1 (4%)
Feral Hog/Peccary	5 (19%)	6 (21%)	7 (28%)	Muzzleloader	0	0	0
Quail/Pheasant	3 (11%)	2 (7%)	3 (12%)	Bow	0	0	0
Turkey	0	2 (7%)	0	TOTAL	26(100%)	29(100%)	25(100%)
Ducks/Geese	1 (4%)	1 (3%)	2 (8%)	SHOOTER'S AGE			
Coyote	2 (8%)	2 (7%)	0	0-9	0	0	0
Squirrel	0	1 (3%)	1 (4%)	10-19	5 (19%)	8 (28%)	7 (28%)
Nongame birds/snake	2 (8%)	3 (10%)	2 (8%)	20-29	3 (12%)	5 (17%)	5 (20%)
TOTAL	26 (100%)	29 (100%)	25 (100%)	30-39	5 (19%)	6 (21%)	2 (8%)
HUNTER JUDGMENT				40-49	5 (19%)	3 (10%)	2 (8%)
Victim out of sight of shooter/moved into line of fire	3	2	1	50-59	2 (8%)	4 (14%)	5 (20%)
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	2	4	7	60 & over	4 (15%)	3 (10%)	3 (12%)
Victim mistaken for game	1	0	1	Unknown	2 (8%)	0	1 (4%)
TOTAL	6	6	9	TOTAL	26 (100%)	29 (100%)	25 (100%)
Removing/placing firearm in vehicle	3	1	1	MISCELLANEOUS/TREE STAND FACTOR			
Discharge of firearm in/on vehicle	6	6	2	Ricochet	0	0	1
Improper Crossing of an obstacle; Walking with loaded firearm	1	0	1	Obstruction in Barrel and Faulty Equipment	0	1	2
Alcohol, drugs or horseplay	1	0	1	TOTAL	0	1	3
TOTAL	12	7	5	SKILL AND APTITUDE			
SHOOTER HAD COMPLETED HUNTER ED.	7 (27%)	11 (38%)	6 (24%)	Loading/unloading gun	0	0	1
				Improper crossing	0	0	1
				Careless handling	6	12	4
				Dropped firearm	1	2	1
				Shooter stumbled and fell	1	1	1
				TOTAL	8	15	8
				SELF-INFLICTED	12 (46%)	17 (59%)	13 (52%)
				ALCOHOL/DRUGS A FACTOR	0	0	1

2010 FATAL ACCIDENTS (A)*

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
1-17	Jefferson	29/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and victim were sitting five feet apart in a marsh, the victim on an olden wooden crate to the left of the shooter, who was in the kneeling position. As the victim stood up, he was covered by shooter swinging on the ducks outside of his safe zone of fire.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; in a blind, decide which direction each hunter can safely shoot and stick to that direction; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
2-12	Throckmorton	20/M	Rifle	Feral Hog	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	While hog hunting, 20-year old shooter carelessly discharged his loaded .22-cal. rifle towards himself while getting into/onto an ATV.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; handle firearms carefully; unload firearms before transporting or getting into vehicles; use a proper gun cases when transporting firearms; store ammunition separate while traveling; apply what is learned in hunter education.					
9-23	Hamilton	69/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his loaded shotgun while crossing a fence. The muzzle was pointing towards his chest.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; unload when no longer hunting and before crossing fences and other obstacles or traveling over difficult terrain; handle firearms carefully; complete hunter education.					
10-28	Duval	14/M	Rifle	Rabbit	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his rifle while pointing it towards the victim, who was standing about 20 yards in front of him on the trail.					
<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; use the proper carry techniques; unload firearm carefully; complete hunter education; obey the law.					

2010 NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS (A) *

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted?	Hunter Ed? (Shooter)
1-1	Brown	16/M	Handgun	Feral Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his loaded handgun while pointing it towards his calf muscle.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; unload when no longer hunting; when transporting a firearm, always make sure it is unloaded and in a case, separate from the ammunition; carry holstered handguns with an empty chamber while hunting; complete hunter education; obey the law.					
1-2	Hartley	44/M	Shotgun	Pheasant	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and friends were pheasant hunting --four walking and two blocking. Victim, a blocker, was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. One pellet struck victim in the cheek.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; remember that the technique of walking and blocking while upland bird hunting limits the zones of fire considerably in many cases; complete hunter education.					
Date	County	Shooter's	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-	Hunter Ed?

		Age/Gender			Inflicted?	(Shooter)
1-9	Sutton	59/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was in a hunting blind with two other hunters and carelessly discharged his rifle, one with a worn, faulty action. The discharge caused the bolt to improperly eject and it struck and lacerated his hand. He also received powder burns to the hand as well.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Inspect firearms before every hunt to be sure they are in good working order and take firearms to a gunsmith for maintenance when they seem faulty for any reason; handle firearms carefully; complete hunter education					
2-5	Erath	24/M	Shotgun	Feral Hog	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	20-year olds had been drinking and were illegally hunting from a moving vehicle. The victim tossed something from the front window just as the shooter, sitting in the back seat, fired his shotgun from the back window. The pellets struck victim in the forearm/wrist area.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; never hunt from a moving vehicle, unload firearms when in transport, keeping ammunition separate from the cased firearm; alcohol and horseplay around firearms do not mix; complete hunter education; obey the law.					
3-7	San Saba	30/M	Rifle	Feral Hog	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his rifle towards his foot as he was attempting to shoot a hog from inside a vehicle.					
<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; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
6-26	Bee	25/M	Shotgun	Feral Hog	Yes	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his shotgun while in dense brush as a hog ran by. A large pellet from the discharge struck a nearby metal post/fence ricocheted and struck him in the forearm.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond the target; stick to a safe zone of fire; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
8-11	Van Zandt	18/M	Rifle	Snake	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter shot a cottonmouth and picked it up, thinking it was dead, while carrying the loaded rifle in his other hand. The snake struck at him and he carelessly discharged the .22 caliber rifle as he stood to avoid the strike. The bullet struck him in the right foot.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always unload before retrieving game; always use the game you shoot and never use animals as target practice; make sure animal is dead by using a long stick prior to tagging and field dressing; complete hunter education; obey the law.					
9-2	Eastland	UNK	Shotgun	Dove	No	UNK
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim was part of a large group (50 hunters) in a large field.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; always stay within a safe zone of fire; know how far pellets travel and understand the safe shot fall zone or maximum distances that pellets travel; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; never hunt where there are too many hunters in a reasonable acreage.					

***(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)
9-5	Lipscomb	17/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	Yes (OK)
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Victim walked into ravine out of sight of the victim and fired at a dove that flew out of the ravine. The pellets struck victim in the right cheek and neck area.					
<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; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
9-13	Crosby	72/M	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim had loose pants and as he stood with his loaded shotgun, to go and retrieve a downed bird; his pants fell and he reached for his pants with both hands. In the process, he carelessly discharged his shotgun towards his foot.					
<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; unload before going to retrieve game; wear properly fitted clothing; complete hunter education.					
9-18	Llano	61/F	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of her safe zone of fire. Shooter's view was partially obstructed by brush and the shooter said she didn't know he was in her field 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; select a safe shooting area where there is a proper field of view; complete hunter education.					
9-25	Parker	13/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Two unsupervised 13-year olds were illegally hunting without licenses or the proper hunter education certifications. The shooter fell while attempting to shoot at a bird and carelessly discharged the shotgun towards his friend who was 15 to 25 feet away. The pellets struck the victim in his calf muscle.					
<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; stick to a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; complete hunter education; hunt with an adult; obey the law.					
10-2	Comal	26/M	Shotgun	Non-game birds	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter fell down a steep cliff while attempting to shoot illegally at vultures. The cocked, loaded shotgun came to rest in some cacti. As victim went to assist shooter and carelessly discharged the shotgun while pulling it out of the cacti from the muzzle end towards him. The resulting blast struck victim in his knee.					
<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; complete hunter education; obey the law.					
10-2	Maverick	30/M	Shotgun	Dove	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Shooter said he didn't know the victim was in his field 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; select a safe shooting area where there is a proper field of view; complete hunter education.					

Date	County	Shooter's Age/Gender	Firearm	Animal Hunted	Self-Inflicted	Hunter Ed. Graduate? (Shooter)
10-16	Colorado	53/M	Shotgun	Quail	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter dropped his loaded shotgun while attempting to mount it to his shoulders on a covey flush. The resulting blast sent pellets through his shin.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; treat every firearm as if it is loaded; control the muzzle at all times -- even while mounting it to one's shoulders or falling; use a proper carry at all times; where fitted clothing enabling a smooth mount of gun to shoulder; complete hunter education.					
10-18	Wise	51/M	Rifle	Feral Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter carelessly discharged his .22 cal. rifle towards his thigh as he was attempting to shoot a hog from inside a vehicle.					
<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.					
10-22	Upshur	51/M	Shotgun	Squirrel	No	Yes
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter and victim had separated while walking down a dry creek bed. Shooter was waiting for victim and thinking he was watching a squirrel's tail, fired his 12 gauge towards the victim's hand propped against the tree. Pellets struck victim in torso, face and hand.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; be absolutely sure of the target before raising the firearm towards it; communicate with companions and know where they are positioned at all times; use binoculars; apply what was learned in hunter education.					
11-28	Colorado	19/M	Shotgun	Waterfowl	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim was retrieving a duck from a pond and was covered by the shooter swinging on game outside of his 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; complete hunter education; obey the law.					
12-12	Hansford	48/M	Shotgun	Pheasant	No	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Victim, a blocker, was covered by shooter swinging on game outside of his safe zone of fire. Four pellets struck victim in the facial area.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; stay within a safe zone of fire; communicate with hunting companions; know where others are positioned at all times; remember that the technique of walking and blocking while upland bird hunting limits the zones of fire considerably in many cases; complete hunter education.					
12-14	Bowie	12/M	Rifle	Feral Hog	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter fired a rifle with an obstructed barrel and the discharge caused parts of the breech of his firearm to strike and damage to his eye and face. He was airlifted to a hospital.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Inspect firearms before every hunt to be sure they are in good working order and free from obstructions; take firearms to a gunsmith for maintenance when they seem faulty for any reason; handle firearms carefully; complete hunter education					
12-29	Leon	53/M	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No
<i>Comments:</i>	Shooter was climbing into an elevated box stand with a loaded rifle. He leaned the rifle against the wall while entering the doorway and if fell and discharged, sending the bullet into his leg.					
<i>Prevention:</i>	Always point muzzle in a safe direction; always unload before climbing, into or entering/exiting a stand; never lean a firearm against an insecure rest; treat every firearm as if is loaded; complete hunter education.					

2010 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 an ATV <i>Doves</i>	1 (40M) No HE	Yes	Victim fell from an ATV and his body was crushed upon impact; He and a friend were dove hunting at the time.
Fall from a Tree Stand <i>Feral Hog</i>	1 (42 M) No HE	Yes	Victim fell from a tree stand under the apparent influence of marijuana and was found dead at the scene.
Fall from a Home Made Tree Stand <i>Deer</i>	1 (47M) No HE	No	Victim fell from a tree without the proper fall restraint device or ladder/steps. Nailed in steps gave way and the victim was dispersing corn while he was climbing
Fall from a Tree Stand <i>Deer</i>	1 (56 M) HE - California	No	Victim fell while descending from a tree stand without the proper fall restraint device; he tripped on a wire holding up camo cloth and was wearing thick gloves
Knife Laceration <i>Feral Hog</i>	1 (20 M) No HE	No	Victim was running with an unsheathed knife and tripped, causing the knife to pierce his hamstring area

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
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE REPORTED in 2010