

Maryland Natural Resources Police
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Age (Shooter or responsible person)	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Under 10 Years				
10 – 19 Years		1		
20 – 29 Years				2
30 – 39 Years		1		2
40 – 49 Years				5
50 – 59 Years		1	1	2
60+ Years			1	5
Unknown				
TOTALS		3	2	16

Causes	Two Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Careless Handling		1		3
Fall From Tree Stand			1	11
Victim Mistaken for Game		1		
Victim Covered by Shooter				1
Finger on Trigger				
TOTALS		2	1	15

Distance From Shooter To Victim	Two Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
00 – 10 Yards		1
11 – 50 Yards		1
51 Yards & Over		1
TOTALS		3

Victim Wearing Hunter Orange	Two Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Yes		1
No		1
Not Applicable		1
Unknown		
TOTALS		3

Weather and/or Lighting Conditions	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Clear		1	1	7
Partly Overcast		1	1	5
Pre-Dawn/Dusk		1		2
Unknown				2
TOTALS		3	2	16

Game Species Hunted	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Deer		2	2	14
Squirrel				1
Dove				
Geese/Ducks				1
Rabbit		1		
Turkey				
Unknown				
TOTALS		3	2	16

Hunting Device Used	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Rifle		1		2
Muzzleloader			1	3
Shotgun		1		4
Bow			1	5
Unknown				
TOTALS		2	2	14

Summary

A 40 year old Howard County deer hunter lost the bottom portion of his two-piece self-climber stand resulting in having to wrap his legs around the tree and slide down as if on a fireman's pole, resulting in injury to one arm. Upon investigation it was determined that the pin which holds the cable to the stand broke causing the platform to slip away from the tree. A safety harness was not in use while climbing the tree.

Non-fatal

A 48 year old Kent County Deer Hunter was hunting from a tree stand w/ a crossbow when a deer passed directly underneath. The victim upon attempting this shot inadvertently shot the bolt through his big toe. The victim upon being hospitalized lost half of the toe.

Non-fatal

A 62 year old Charles County deer hunter received multiple injuries to include a fractured neck, fractured pelvis and a fractured skull when he fell from the tree he was hunting from. When the victim was found deceased at the bottom of the tree a safety harness was in place attached to the tree above the stand. The victim had numerous previous known medical conditions. It is not known if the victim was ascending/descending or in the process of hunting.

Fatal

A 63 year old St. Mary's County deer hunter fell approximately 15 feet when he bent over in his stand to grab his haul line to pull his muzzle loader up into the stand. The stand he was hunting from was a 4 year old home made platform that was unable to handle the weight shift. The victim received a fractured pelvis and several fractured ribs.

Non-fatal

A 37 year old Calvert County deer hunter was inspecting a home made stand. Upon clearing debris from the platform the victim slipped and fell to the ground sustaining back injuries. The victim was not wearing a safety harness.

Non-fatal

A 65 year old Washington County deer hunter fell approximately 20 feet while descending from his tree stand. The victim was wearing a safety harness but it was not attached to the tree as the descent began. The victim suffered a broken arm and broken leg.

Non-fatal

A 47 year old Calvert County rabbit hunter received a gunshot (shotgun) wound to his body/thigh/head when he was shot by a 15 year old hunting partner. A party of 4 was hunting with the aid of a dog when a rabbit ran between the men who were approximately 40 yards apart. The shooter stated that he could not see the other hunter when he shot at the rabbit.

Non-fatal

A 84 year old Frederick County deer hunter fell from his tree stand after firing two shots at a whitetail deer. Upon working the action (Remington 870 pump) and firing the second round the victim found himself knocked off balance. The victim then attempted to jump clear of the stand and landed on his feet. The victim was not wearing a safety harness.

Non-fatal

A 52 year old Worcester County deer hunter shot himself with a rifle as he was beginning to descend from his ladder type stand. The loaded rifle was positioned with the barrel pointing upward when it slid and bumped against the stand causing it to discharge the chambered round. The victim received extensive damage to his lower arm.

Non-fatal

A 41 year old Frederick County deer hunter fell while attempting to climb out of his tree stand. The victim was not wearing a safety harness.

Non-fatal

A 29 year old Cecil County deer hunter slipped from his self-climbing stand. The victim may have had a medical condition which could have caused him to lose consciousness. The victim was not wearing a safety harness (he had left it at home but decided to use the stand anyway).

Non-fatal

A 52 year old Charles County deer hunter shot his 22 year old son with a rifle across an open field. The shooter and the victim had been hunting together and at dusk the shooter fired out at movement in the field which he mistook for a deer. The victim was walking through the field prior to ending the hunt and returning to the vehicles. The evening of the incident a fog had settled in just prior to the end of legal shooting time.

Non-fatal

A 33 year old Somerset County deer hunter received a broken back when the cable on his portable stand broke. The victim was not wearing a safety harness.

Non-fatal

A 47 year old Frederick County deer hunter located a large blown down tree. While attempting to walk up the trunk to utilize the tree as a stand off the ground the victim lost his footing and fell approximately 6 feet. The victim received 2 broken ribs.

Non-fatal

A 46 year old Montgomery County deer hunter shot himself in the leg with a .22 caliber semi-automatic handgun while hunting from a ground blind. The victim advised he was hunting deer with a bow and squirrels with the .22. as the victim was clearing leaves, sticks and debris from the floor of the blind the pistol discharged. The victim had never taken a hunter education course.

Non-fatal

A 67 year old Cecil County deer hunter fell asleep while up in a tree stand approximately 17 feet off the ground. The victim fell from the stand headfirst. The victim was overdue for several hours before he was located by his wife and son. The victim was not wearing a safety harness. Victim was flown to shock-trauma.

Non-fatal

A 20 year old Frederick County deer hunter was shot in the foot by his 31 year old hunting companion. The original report was filed as a self inflicted accident due to the fact that the shooter was a felon and not supposed to be in possession of a firearm.

Non-fatal

A 55 year old Kent County goose hunter was setting decoys when he stepped and fell into the pit blind. This caused the victim to fall onto a shotgun at which time it discharged causing the shotgun pellets to ricochet striking the victim in the face.

Non-fatal

A 54 year old Garrett County deer hunter died from an apparent heart attack while walking through deep snow during the late muzzle loader season.

Fatal

A 60 year old Frederick County deer hunter fell asleep while hunting from a portable tree stand and fell to the ground. The victim had a safety harness with him but he had not put it on. It was still secured to an adjacent tree when the rescue crew arrived at his location.

Non-fatal

Property Damage

A 28 year old Charles County deer hunter while hunting within the safety zone discharged his shotgun resulting in the rifled slug passing through a window of the residence striking a chandelier in the dining room and becoming embedded in a wall. Thankfully the residence was vacant at the time of the incident.

Property Damage Only

A rifle round was recovered from a Frederick County home during the second day of the extended fire arms deer season. The round went through the wall of the home and struck a sliding glass door causing it to shatter. The round was recovered at the scene by the sheriff's department. The nearest wooded area was over 400 yards away.

Property Damage Only

A rifle round was recovered from a "second" Frederick County home during the extended firearms deer season. The round entered through the front wall of the residence blew out the drywall in the living room at which time the bullet came to rest on the floor and was recovered by the homeowner. The bullet was a full metal jacket round (illegal to use on big game).

Property Damage Only

A third house was struck by an errant round in Frederick County during the extended F/A's deer season. A suspect was located a short time later coming out of an adjacent property with a harvested deer. The suspected firearm was held as evidence and ballistics checks were requested on the said firearm and the recovered projectile.

Property Damage Only

This report was prepared by:

MD Hunter Education Program