

Maryland Natural Resources Police
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

F Y 15

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		1
20 – 29 Years				
30 – 39 Years				1
40 – 49 Years				
50 – 59 Years				1
60+ Years		1		2
Unknown				
TOTALS		2		5

Causes	Two Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Careless Handling		1		1
Fall From Tree Stand				4
Victim Mistaken for Game		1		
Victim Covered by Shooter				
Finger on Trigger				
TOTALS		2		5

Distance From Shooter To Victim	Two Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
00 – 10 Yards		1
11 – 50 Yards		
51 Yards & Over		1
TOTALS		2

Victim Wearing Hunter Orange	Two Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Yes		
No		1
Not Applicable		1
Unknown		
TOTALS		2

Weather and/or Lighting Conditions	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Clear			1	4
Partly Overcast		1		
Pre-Dawn/Dusk		1		
Unknown				
TOTALS		2	1	4

Game Species Hunted	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Deer		1		4
Squirrel				
Dove				
Geese/Ducks				
Rabbit				
Turkey		1		1
Unknown				
TOTALS		2		5

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

Summary

A 16 year old Allegany County turkey hunter fired two (2) shots from a 12 gauge shotgun at what they believed to be the white head of a spring gobbler. The shot traveled approximately 53 yards and struck a 70 year old camouflaged turkey hunter in the face. This hunter had walked into the woods, sat down and was listening for turkey's completely camouflaged except for the side of his face which is what the shooter was observing and mistook for a turkey.

Non-Fatal

A 69 year old Worcester County deer hunter (firearms season) fell asleep while hunting from a tree stand. Upon falling the victim had been unconscious for an undetermined period of time before a hunting partner found him approximately two (2) hours after the fall. The victim was airlifted from the scene and received three (3) broken vertebrae and had bleeding on the brain. The victim was not wearing a safety harness.

Non-Fatal

A 60 year old Carroll County deer hunter (firearms season) was unloading his .30 caliber bolt action rifle at the tailgate of their vehicle when the firearm discharged striking the 43 year old hunting partner. The victim was struck in the thigh damaging the femoral artery. The victim was airlifter to Shock Trauma.

Non-Fatal

A 37 year old Frederick County deer hunter (bow season) was attempting to climb down out of their hang on style tree stand. Upon grabbing a tree limb the limb snapped causing the hunter to fall approximately 10-15 feet. The victim was not wearing a safety harness. Screw in tree steps were also utilized to gain access to the stand.

Non-Fatal

A 14 year old Washington County turkey hunter (fall season) suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the leg. The victim was airlifted out to a Children's Hospital in D.C. Investigators later had to return to the scene to retrieve the shotgun.

Non-Fatal

A 64 year old Caroline County deer hunter (early muzzleloader season) fell approximately 20 feet when the portable stand they were using failed. The investigation determined that the straps used to secure the stand to the tree were well weathered and dry rot. The victim suffered a broken nose and multiple serious facial injuries. The victim was not wearing a safety harness.

Non-Fatal

A 52 year old Cecil County deer hunter (bow season) fell approximately 25 feet from their climbing style stand when one of the cables broke. The victim was wearing a safety harness but was not attached to the tree when the break occurred. The victim received a fractured tibia, fractured knee, and fractured hand and fractured lower back vertebrae.

Non-Fatal

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Property Damage

This report was prepared by:

MD Hunter Education Program