



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**



**Natural Resources Police  
Hunting Incident Report  
FY 2011**

Age (Shooter or responsible person)	Two Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Under 10 Years				
10 – 19 Years		2		1
20 – 29 Years				1
30 – 39 Years				
40 – 49 Years		2	1	3
50 – 59 Years		2		2
60+ Years			1	
Unknown				
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

Causes	Two Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Careless Handling		1		3
Fall From Tree Stand			3	4
Victim Mistaken for Game		4		
Victim Covered by Shooter				
Finger on Trigger				
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>

Distance From Shooter To Victim	Two Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
00 – 10 Yards		1
11 – 50 Yards		2
51 Yards & Over		5
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>8</b>

<b>Victim Wearing Hunter Orange</b>	<b>Two Party</b>	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Yes		2
No		2
Not Applicable		4
Unknown		
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>8</b>

<b>Weather and/or Lighting Conditions</b>	<b>Two Party</b>		<b>Self-Inflicted</b>	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Clear		3	3	5
Partly Overcast				
Pre-Dawn/Dusk		2		2
Unknown				
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>Game Species Hunted</b>	<b>Two Party</b>		<b>Self-Inflicted</b>	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Deer		3	3	7
Squirrel				1
Dove				
Geese/Ducks				
Rabbit				
Turkey		1		
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Hunting Device Used</b>	<b>Two Party</b>		<b>Self-Inflicted</b>	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Rifle		2		1
Muzzleloader		1		2
Shotgun		2		1
Bow		1	2	4
Unknown				
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>

### **Summary**

A 75 year old Queen Anne's County deer hunter fell approximately 12 to 15 feet from a ladder style homemade tree stand: Upon investigation it was determined the victim was hunting with a hunting companion in separate locations. During two-way radio communications, the companion had lost contact with his partner. The companion went to the location of the stand and found the victim at the base of the tree on the ground. The turn buckle on the chain that hooked the stand to the tree was broken and the sides had come off. The stand appeared to have been attached to the tree for an extended period of time and the tree had grown around the chain that fastened it to the tree. A safety harness was not used. Fatal.

A 44 year old Cecil County deer hunter fell approximately 30 feet from a portable climbing tree stand: Upon investigation it was determined the victim was hunting with his son in separate locations. During cell phone communications, the son lost contact with his dad. The son went to the location of the stand and found the victim at the base of the tree. The victim was not wearing a safety harness. Fatal

A 25 year old Dorchester County deer hunter, while loading his muzzleloader, had a discharge while reloading the gun: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter had shot at a deer. As he was reloading the muzzleloader, it discharged, causing the ramrod to penetrate and exit the victims' right hand, right bicep, and right shoulder. Upon investigation, it was uncertain how the gun discharged. The victim thought he had not put a live cap on the nipple prior to charging the gun. Non fatal.

A 47 year old Calvert County deer hunter fell approximately 20 feet while climbing a ladder tree stand: Upon investigation it was determined while on the stand, the stand gave away. The victim suffered lacerations to his right forearm from striking a climbing spike while falling, and leg and back trauma. A safety harness was not used. Non fatal.

A 55 year old Harford County deer hunter fell approximately 25 feet from a fixed position portable tree stand: Upon investigation it was determined the victim was hunting alone, separate from his hunting party. When the victim failed to return to camp after hunting hours, his hunting party searched and located him lying on the ground approximately 30 feet from the tree he was hunting from. A waist style safety harness was found under the victim and the tree section of the safety harness was found at the base of the tree under a collapsed tree stand. Fatal.

A 41 year old Carroll County woman was struck in the right leg by a stray projectile while she was in her back yard Upon investigation it was determined two individuals were plinking and shooting at squirrels & birds with a .22 cal. rifle in a wooded area behind her residence. Due to an unsafe backstop, it was determined their projectile traveled approximately .26 miles to the victim's property causing the leg injury. Squirrel season was closed at the time of this incident. Charges pending. Non fatal.

A 52 year old Wicomico County deer hunter fell approximately 10 feet while climbing into a wooden homemade tree stand: Upon investigation it was determined the victim was climbing up wooden steps and the fourth step pulled loose from the tree causing the victim to fall backwards

onto his back causing severe lower back injuries. The victim crawled to his residence to summon help. A safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 51 year old Frederick County deer hunter fell approximately 15 feet from a wooden ladder tree stand: Upon investigation it was determined the victim was descending from the tree stand when he fell. Upon taking the first step out of the stand, his foot slipped off the rung causing the victim to fall and land on his back and rifle (sling carry style). The victim then walked one fourth of a mile to his vehicle, then drove himself to his residence. Medical help was summoned. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital for medical assistance. The victim's injuries were non life threatening. A safety harness was not used. Non Fatal

A 16 year old Dorchester County deer hunter fell approximately 20 feet from a portable climbing tree stand: Upon investigation the victim had climbed approximately 20 feet up the tree when the stand gave away. It was determined the stand was not properly fastened to the tree causing it to collapse and fall. The victim suffered extensive bruising to his torso. A safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 58 year old Baltimore County deer hunter fell approximately 20 feet from a portable tree stand: Upon investigation it was determined the tree stand cable that secured the stand to the tree broke, causing the victim to be ejected. The victim suffered 10 fractured ribs and a fractured pelvis. A safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 57 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 57 year old hunting companion who he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter and victim had split up to hunt deer. Both hunters were wearing fluorescent orange when they departed each others company. The shooter had gone approximately 95 yards to his stand, climbed into it and began to hunt deer. The shooter observed a dark movement coming towards his location. The shooter was using a .30-06 scoped rifle. The shooter advised he determined he was shooting at a deer by looking through his scope, and shot at center mass. He heard a scream and found he had shot his hunting partner. When he went to the aid of his companion it was determined the victim had on a Gillie suit, displaying no daylight fluorescent orange. The victim began apologizing for not wearing orange. It was determined the bullet traveled 37 yards and had struck a tree before striking the victim in the right side of his lower back. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting and the victim's violation of hunting without displaying fluorescent orange was pending. Non Fatal.

A 48 year old Caroline County deer hunter shot his 46 year old hunting companion that he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter heard a disturbance of brush and saw movement, thinking it was a deer. The shooter fired a crossbow bolt at the movement at a distance of 62 yards, striking the victim in his left tibia. The time of the incident was four minutes after legal shooting hours. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

A 47 year old Kent County deer hunter received head injuries when his muzzleloader barrel ruptured: Upon investigation it was determined the victim had finished hunting and was discharging his gun into the ground to clear the charge. When the victim discharged the gun at a distance 2 feet, the barrel blew apart, causing a severe laceration to his head. He transported himself on an ATV to summon medical assistance. Non Fatal

A 16 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 19 year old hunting companion while shooting at a running deer: Upon investigation 8 hunters had organized a deer drive in a marshy dense wooded area. 5 hunters were pushing deer while 3 were standers. As a deer passed between two standers, the shooter shot at a running deer, striking his hunting companion in both femurs with a .12 ga. shotgun using #4 buckshot at a distance of 60 yards. The shooter advised he never saw the victim. Both hunters were wearing daylight fluorescent orange. Non Fatal.

A 56 year old Dorchester County turkey hunter shot his 36 year old hunting companion, mistaking him for game: Upon investigation it was determined the two hunters entered their hunting area and posted three turkey decoys in an open field. They then split up to hunt the area and the shooter advised he did not see which direction the victim went. After a period of time the shooter saw three turkeys to the right of the decoys 40 yards away. The shooter advised he could not see the birds at all times. After an hour he called his companion on a cell phone to ask him if he saw the birds. Immediately after their conversation, the shooter saw a movement then shot. He had shot his hunting companion. The movement he saw was the victim putting his cell phone away. The victim was shot at a distance of 38 yards. The victim received 24 #4 shotgun pellets which were fired from the shooters 12 .ga shotgun. The victim was struck in the right side of his body receiving wounds in his head, neck, shoulder, torso, calf, knee, and ankle. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

### **Property Damage**

A 13 year old Dorchester County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter discharged a .45 cal. muzzleloader at a deer 6 minutes after legal shooting hours. The projectile, missing the deer, traveled 242 yards striking a house 48 inches from the ground. As the projectile entered the house, it penetrated exterior and interior walls and lodge in a recliner. A resident in the home was sitting in the chair at the time and received a red mark on their shoulder where the projectile stopped on impact. Non Fatal

During the 2010 Firearm Deer Season, residents of a home located in the area of Walkersville (Frederick County), reported their house had been struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the home had been struck by a projectile doing damage to the exterior & interior walls. Interviews were conducted with seven hunters who were in the vicinity of the area the day before hunting deer as regarding their actions that day. It was never determined who may have been the shooter, but one scenario did reveal a hunter had fired a .30.30 rifle at a deer pointed in the direction that the home approximately 3,940 feet away. No evidence was found to support charges. Non Fatal.

A 45 year old Frederick County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter had discharged a .12 gauge shotgun using slugs at a herd of deer. The gun jammed, the shooter cleared the gun, turned and shot at another deer in the direction of the home. The shooter advised he had become disoriented as to the direction he was shooting. The slug entered the home at a distance of 114 yards, traveled through the exterior and two interior walls, through two rooms, and into appliances and home furnishings. No one was in

the home at the time of the incident. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting and Hunting within 150 yards of a dwelling (Safety Zone). Non Fatal.