

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Maryland Hunting Accident Report
FY24**

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		2
20 – 29 Years		1		
30 – 39 Years				2
40 – 49 Years				1
50 – 59 Years		1		4
60+ Years		1		6
Unknown		1		
TOTALS		5		15

Causes	Two Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Careless Handling		4		4
Fall From Tree Stand				10
Victim Mistaken for Game				
Victim Covered by Shooter		1		
Finger on Trigger				
Medical				1
TOTALS		5		15

Distance From Shooter To Victim	Two Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
00 – 10 Yards		
11 – 50 Yards		1
51 Yards & Over		4
TOTALS		5

Victim Wearing Hunter Orange	Two Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Yes		1
No		3
Not Applicable		1
Unknown		
TOTALS		5

Weather and/or Lighting Conditions	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Clear		4		13
Partly Overcast		1		
Pre-Dawn/Dusk				2
Unknown				
TOTALS		5		15

Game Species Hunted	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Deer		1		14
Squirrel				
Dove		2		
Geese/Ducks		2		
Rabbit				1
Turkey				
Woodchuck				
TOTALS		5		15

Hunting Device Used	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Rifle				4
Muzzleloader		1		4
Shotgun		4		
Bow				
Crossbow				4
Handgun				2
Unknown				1
TOTALS		5		15

Summary

A 14-year-old Caroline County dove hunter shot a dove from his original location in a sunflower field. The hunter went to retrieve the dove but it flushed up from its location. The hunter fired one shot at the flying dove and the pellets traveled approximately 50 yards beyond the intended target and stuck another hunter in the back. The victim was sitting down behind standing sunflowers and could not be seen by the hunter. The victim went to the hospital and suffered minor injuries.

A 64-year-old Dorchester County dove hunter was hunting on a guided trip with approximately 12 other hunters. The guides placed them in a circle around the sunflower field. An unidentified hunter across the field from the victim, shot at a low flying dove. The pellets from the shot struck the victim in his face, neck, arms and legs. He transported himself to the hospital to remove the remaining pellets. The subject suffered minor injuries.

A 65-year-old Frederick County hunter fell from a tree stand due to the rusty cables while deer hunting. The subject was standing on the platform of his tree stand when the cable broke causing him to fall. The subject was not wearing a safety harness at the time of the incident. The subject was transported by EMS for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

A 63-year-old Washington County deer hunter fell approximately 12 feet from a tree stand. The subject had just finish climbing to his preferred height and was in the process of hooking up his safety harness. The cable wrapping the platform of the stand to the tree broke causing the hunter to fall. He was transported to the hospital for a broken arm and fractured pelvis.

A 30-year-old St. Mary's County deer hunter fell approximately 10 feet while climbing down from a tree stand. One of the steps from the ladder gave out, which caused the victim to fall. The victim was transported to the hospital and sustained a laceration to her liver.

A 39-year-old Garrett County hunter fell approximately 18 feet from a tree stand while deer hunting. The subject was climbing up the ladder of his tree stand when he slipped and lost his balance causing him to fall. The subject was not wearing a safety harness at the time of the incident. The subject was transported by EMS for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

A 51-year-old Washington County hunter fell approximately 20 feet from a tree stand while deer hunting. The subject lost his balance while leaning over causing him to fall. The subject was not wearing a safety harness. The subject was transported to the hospital for head, neck and internal injuries.

A 73-year-old Garrett County hunter lost his balance and fell inside his box blind while deer hunting. The victim was transported to the hospital for 3 broken ribs after he landed on a wooden bench in the blind.

A 13-year-old Washington County hunter fell approximately 10 feet from a tree stand while deer hunting. The victim's father was in the process of climbing up the ladder when the tree stand buckled. When the tree stand buckled, the victim lost his balance while standing on the platform and fell. The victim was transported to the hospital for a broken wrist.

A 59-year-old St. Mary's County hunter suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound from a revolver. The victim was walking with his revolver in his hand when he slipped and fell. During the fall the gun went off and the victim was shot in the abdomen. The victim was able to call 911 and was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

An 18-year-old Talbot County deer hunter fell approximately 16 feet from a tree stand. While climbing down from the tree stand the victim's hand slipped causing her to lose her balance and fall. The victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

A 52-year-old Somerset County hunter fell approximately 25 feet from a tree stand while deer hunting. The subject was not wearing a safety harness and started to feel light headed. The subject fell to the ground and sustained fractures in his vertebrae.

A 68-year-old Frederick County deer hunter accidentally stabbed himself with a knife while field dressing his deer. During the process of field dressing his deer the subject slipped which caused the knife to enter approximately 1" into his bicep. The subject was able to tie a rope around his arm to act as a tourniquet until EMS arrive. The subject required surgery as the knife cut a vein and nerve in his arm.

A 53-year-old Frederick County hunter fell approximately 8 feet from a tree stand while deer hunting. The subject was climbing down a tree using a climber style tree stand when the top portion of the stand broke free from the tree. The subject fell backwards with his feet still attached to the bottom portion of the stand. He was able to work his feet free from the bottom portion of the stand and fell the remaining 8 feet to the ground. He was transported by EMS to the hospital for a broken leg.

A 65-year-old Anne Arundel County hunter fired his 10 gauge shotgun at a flying goose and hit a house. The hunter mistakenly loaded his shotgun with a slug when he fired at the goose. The slug traveled through the exterior house wall and into furniture. The hunter was unaware of how a slug ended up in his waterfowl ammo box.

A 44-year-old Cecil County hunter fell approximately 30 feet from a tree stand while deer hunting. The subject was wearing his safety harness but failed to attach it to the tree. The subject could not remember how or why he fell. He was transported to the hospital by EMS for injuries to his lower body which included multiple leg fractures.

A 59-year-old Talbot County waterfowl hunter hit a vehicle passing by on an adjacent road while shooting at a flying goose. The hunter's location was approximately 160 yards away from the road but the trajectory of the pellets from the shot reach the passing car. The pellets from the shot cracked the windshield and chipped off paint in multiple locations.

A 24-year-old Frederick County deer hunter attempted to shoot a deer but missed and the bullet traveled through the roof of a house and onto the living room floor. The deer was estimated to be 80 yards away but the angle and direction of the shot put the house in the backdrop. The hunter believed the muzzleloader he was using may not have been sighted in.

A 74-year-old Queen Anne's County rabbit hunter accidentally shot himself in the leg with a .22 caliber pistol. The subject holstered the pistol after shooting a rabbit but was not sure if the safety was engaged. The subject pulled the pistol out of the holster to check and the gun fired. A round from the pistol entered into his lower leg. The subject was transported to the hospital for his injuries and to remove the bullet that was lodged in his leg.

A 65-year-old Somerset County turkey hunter injured his hand while shooting his crossbow. The hunter is a right handed shooter but circumstances made him have to pull the trigger with his left hand. The subject did not realize his right hand was not in the proper place. When the trigger was pulled the crossbow limb hit the subject's right hand causing injury. The subject transported himself to the hospital where he was treated for his injuries.

This report was prepared by:

MD Hunter Education Program