

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Maryland Hunting Accident Report
FY25**

Age (Shooter or responsible person)	Two Party		Single Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Under 10 Years				
10 – 19 Years		1		3
20 – 29 Years				1
30 – 39 Years				1
40 – 49 Years				2
50 – 59 Years				4
60+ Years		1	1	4
Unknown				
TOTALS		2	1	15

Causes	Two Party		Single Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Careless Handling				2
Fall From Tree Stand				12
Victim Mistaken for Game				
Victim Covered by Shooter		1		
Finger on Trigger				
Medical			1	
Other		1		1
TOTALS		2	1	15

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

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

TOTALS		2		
Weather and/or Lighting Conditions	Two Party		Single Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Clear		2		6
Partly Overcast				1
Pre-Dawn/Dusk				5
Unknown			1	3
TOTALS		2	1	15

Game Species Hunted	Two Party		Single Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Deer		2	1	15
Squirrel				
Dove				
Geese/Ducks				
Rabbit				
Turkey				
Woodchuck				
TOTALS		2	1	15

Hunting Device Used	Two Party		Single Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Rifle		1		3
Muzzleloader			1	2
Shotgun		1		2
Bow				2
Crossbow				6
Handgun				
Unknown				
TOTALS		2	1	15

Summary

A 54-year-old Frederick County deer hunter was climbing into the stand when a ratchet strap on the top climbing stick broke, causing the stick to pull away from the tree. The hunter was not wearing a safety harness. The hunter fell approximately 20 feet, hitting her head, knee, and ankle. She was able to get out of the woods on her own but her husband drove her to the hospital.

A 73-year-old Howard County deer hunter was using his climbing style tree stand to descend the tree he was in. He was approximately 8 foot from the ground when the strap on top portion of his stand broke. The break caused the hunter to fall, but his foot remained attached to the lower section of the stand. This resulted in him hanging upside down until rescue personnel were able to assist him down. He sustained a sprained ankle and refused medical treatment.

An 11-year-old Washington County deer hunter suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his foot. The hunter shot at a deer with his muzzleloader which did not fire. He opened the bolt of the muzzleloader to check for a possible malfunctioning primer. The muzzle was aimed at his right foot and when he closed the bolt the muzzleloader fired, striking his foot. He was transported to the hospital for treatment.

A 39-year-old Caroline County hunter fell approximately 18 feet from a tree stand while deer hunting. The subject was climbing up the ladder to his tree stand when he slipped and lost his balance causing him to fall. The subject was wearing a safety harness but it was not attached to the tree at the time of the incident. The subject was flown to shock trauma for serious injuries to his legs, back and neck.

A 57-year-old Carroll County hunter fell approximately 18 feet from a tripod style tree stand while deer hunting. The subject lost his balance while attempting to reposition himself. The subject was not wearing a safety harness. The subject was transported to the hospital for back and sternum injuries.

A 69-year-old Baltimore County hunter suffered injuries from a tree stand fall while deer hunting. The subject was descending down a tree using a climber style tree stand when the top portion of the stand broke. The subject fell backwards with his feet still attached to the bottom portion of the stand. He was able to call 911 for help and remained conscious. He was transported by EMS to the hospital for 2 broken ankles.

A 58-year-old Cecil County hunter fell approximately 20 feet from a tree stand. The subject was standing on the platform of his tree stand when it unexpectedly broke causing him to fall. The subject was not wearing a safety harness at the time of the incident. The subject was transported by helicopter injuries to his hip and back.

A 29-year-old Somerset County hunter fell approximately 15 feet while climbing up to his tree stand while deer hunting. The subject was standing on the third section of ladder when it detached from the tree causing him to fall. The subject was wearing a safety harness but it was not attached to the tree at the time of the incident. The subject was flown to shock trauma for serious injuries to his back and foot.

A 15-year-old Washington County deer hunter fell from a tree stand causing a head injury. The subject had just finish climbing to his preferred height and was in the process of settling in the bottom portion of his climbing stand. The bottom section fell from under him causing him to fall. He was wearing a safety harness which stopped him from falling to the ground but he hit his head against the tree. He was able to climb down the tree with the help of his father after the head injury. He was transported to the hospital for a concussion.

A 58-year-old Harford County hunter lost his balance and fell while deer hunting. The subject could only remember waking up next to the deer he harvested. He was transported to the hospital for a head injury due to loss of consciousness.

A 47-year-old Dorchester County deer hunter fell approximately 10 feet from a tree stand. While climbing the ladder of his tree stand their hand slipped causing him to lose his balance and fall. He was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

A 61-year-old Garrett County deer hunter fell approximately 12 feet from a tree stand. While climbing the ladder of his tree stand his foot slipped causing him to lose his balance and fall. He was transported to the hospital for pelvic and femur injuries.

A 15-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 stood up to take a shot at a deer. The strap broke on the base of the lock-on stand causing the subject to fall to the ground. He sustained injuries to his back, wrist and legs that required him to be flown to shock trauma.

A 40-year-old Baltimore County deer hunter accidentally stabbed himself in the leg with a crossbow bolt. The subject was unloading his crossbow when the bolt dropped on the ground with the broadhead facing up. The subject accidentally walked into the bolt causing the broadhead to impale his leg. The subject was transported to the hospital for his injuries and to remove the bolt that was lodged in his leg.

A 66-year-old Frederick County hunter suffered injuries from a tree stand fall while deer hunting. The subject was climbing up a tree using a climber style tree stand when the top portion of the stand broke. The subject fell backwards with his feet still attached to the bottom portion of the stand. He was able to call 911 for help and remained conscious. He was transported by EMS to the hospital for an ankle and muscle sprains.

A 68-year-old Queen Anne's County deer hunter was found deceased in the woods near his deer stand. The investigation revealed that the subject shot a deer and was walking from his stand when he suffered a heart attack.

A 75-year-old Harford County deer hunter attempted to shoot a deer but missed and the bullet traveled through the window of a house and onto the kitchen 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 stated the rifle was not sighted in due to lack of ammo.

A 16-year-old Howard County deer hunter was shot in the arm during a deer drive with a group of hunters. The victim was walking in the woods with a large group of hunters. The hunters were separated and attempted to shoot at a deer while it was running. The deer ran in-between two groups while multiple hunters were shooting at it. A slug from a hunter struck the victim in the elbow which ended up getting lodged in his wrist. The investigation is ongoing at this time.

This report was prepared by:

MD Hunter Education Program