

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Maryland Hunting Accident Report
FY19**

Age (Shooter or responsible person)	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Under 10 Years				
10 – 19 Years				
20 – 29 Years				1
30 – 39 Years				2
40 – 49 Years				
50 – 59 Years				5
60+ Years		1		3
Unknown				
TOTALS		1		11

Causes	Two Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Careless Handling				1
Fall From Tree Stand				9
Victim Mistaken for Game				
Victim Covered by Shooter		1		
Finger on Trigger				
TOTALS		1		10

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

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

Weather and/or Lighting Conditions	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Clear				8
Partly Overcast		1		1
Pre-Dawn/Dusk				2
Unknown				
TOTALS		1		11

Game Species Hunted	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Deer				10
Squirrel				
Dove				
Geese/Ducks				1
Rabbit				
Turkey				
Woodchuck		1		
TOTALS		1		11

Hunting Device Used	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Rifle		1		3
Muzzleloader				2
Shotgun				2
Bow				1
Unknown				
TOTALS		1		8

Summary

A 77-year-old Worcester County Deer Hunter (Archery season) was repairing his tree stand when the ladder he climbed up on fell out from beneath him. The subject was transported by EMS to Atlantic General Hospital with left arm and shoulder injuries. Not actively hunting at the time.

**** Tree Stand Accident**

A 38-year-old Frederick County Deer Hunter (Archery season) was in the process of checking his tree stand. Rust could be observed on the cables. Upon standing up to start to climb down both of the rusted cables snapped, the hunter fell approximately 20 feet landing on his feet and collapsed. The subject laid there until a friend came to the location to pick him up. The subject was transported to the hospital by the friend and received a broken fibula which required surgery. Not actively hunting at the time.

**** Tree Stand Accident**

A 55-year-old Cecil County Deer Hunter (Archery season) fell approximately 15 feet out of his climbing type stand. The hunter was trespassing and no one knew his exact whereabouts. An MSP bloodhound was brought in to track during the evening hours. The hunter laid on the ground the entire day from 0630 when he fell till to 2100 hours when reported overdue and received injuries to the pelvis, back and ribs. Subject was flown to Shock Trauma, and received natural resources charges upon release from the hospital.

**** Tree Stand Accident**

A 68-year-old Dorchester County Deer Hunter (Firearms season) was in the process of setting up his ladder type stand when the middle buckled and bent inward causing the hunter to fall sustaining injury to the right leg. EMS transported the victim by ATV to ambulance. Not actively hunting but was checking/adjusting the stand to hunt the next day.

**** Tree Stand Accident**

A 53-year-old Dorchester County Waterfowl Hunter was treated by EMS for hypothermia after falling out of a vessel that was overloaded with a total of five occupants and accompanying hunting gear. MSP Helo Trooper 4 was able to locate the victims and relay coordinates to ground units. All victims were recovered and transported back to the launch site.

A 55-year-old Harford County Deer Hunter (Firearms season) had placed climbing steps in and was climbing up with his stand when he grabbed onto a branch that subsequently broke causing him to fall to the ground. The subject received a broken ankle which required surgery.

** Tree Stand Accident

A 59-year-old Garrett County Deer Hunter (Firearms season) fell approximately 20-25 feet when he slipped out of a crudely made box style stand that he was hunting from with another family member just after the other hunter shot a deer and was climbing down to retrieve. The subject fell past the other hunter and landed on his back receiving serious injury to his back, neck and head.

** Tree Stand Accident

A 32-year-old Caroline County Deer Hunter (Firearms season) and his 10-year-old son fell from a two-man ladder type stand. The victim had noticed while climbing that the strap securing the stand was loose. While attempting to tighten the strap broke causing the entire stand to fall to the ground. EMS was called to the scene and the victim transported. The father received surgery for a fractured femur the son received a contusion to his right clavicle.

** Tree Stand Accident

A 55-year-old Wicomico County Deer Hunter (Firearms season) shot himself in the lower leg while attaching his rifle to the tree stand haul line. The hunter with about two years experience had clipped the carbineer through the trigger guard of the bolt action .270. The rifle was loaded and the safety mechanism disengaged, upon putting weight upon the haul line the rifle discharged striking the subject.

Self-inflicted gunshot wound

A 21-year-old Harford County Deer Hunter (Firearms season) was hunting from a wooden platform approximately 20 feet off the ground when he turned to look behind him and fell over. The subject was transported by EMS and received trauma to the chest and some internal bleeding.

**** Tree Stand Accident**

A 78 year-old Baltimore County Deer Hunter (Muzzleloading season) fell approximately 16 feet when he slipped off a homemade wooden stand. Subject suffered 3 broken ribs, bruised spleen, concussion, collapsed left lung and a broken right hand.

**** Tree Stand Accident**

A 61-year-old Washington County Woodchuck Hunter was shooting from the front of their residence off a picnic table for support when one shot went errant and struck a person fishing at an adjacent pond, grazing their shoulder. The victim was approximately two tenths of a mile away obscured by heavy brush and tree cover. Rimfire .22 long rifle ammunition from a rifle was the implement used.

Related accidents not listed as “Hunting Accidents”

A 87-year-old Garrett County Deer Hunter (Firearms season) with a history of cardiac, prostate and high blood pressure issues was found deceased by a family member in his ground box blind after he fired approximately 5 times at a deer. The family member was hunting from an adjacent blind and investigated after he attempted to call the victim without getting a response.

Fatal

A 51-year-old Allegany County Deer Hunter (Firearms season) suffered an apparent cardiac arrest after shooting and field dressing a deer. The subject had acquired help with dragging the deer out. After the two men began and having gone about 30 yards they both stopped to take a short rest, at this time the victim fell backwards and rolled down the hill. The friend began CPR and after several minutes requested help and met with first responders on a nearby dirt roadway.

Fatal

A 75-year-old Calvert County Deer Hunter (Firearms season) with a history of cardiac illness was overdue when a friend started towards his tree stand location. The subject was found deceased still in the stand. EMS and first responders required a ladder and additional help to remove the victim.

Fatal

A 51-year-old Frederick County Deer Hunter (Muzzleloading season) experienced a medical emergency while hunting and died from natural causes.

Fatal

Property Damage

An unknown Washington County Deer Hunter (Archery season) shot a crossbow bolt through a Honda SUV while it was parked in the victims driveway. Apparently the shot took place after sunset the evening before the damage was observed. Deer frequent the lawn of this residence and other residences within the neighborhood most evenings. No suspect(s) were observed at the time of the damage.

A Montgomery County residence received a broken window caused by a stray bullet fired from a rifle. The projectile was recovered on scene lodged in between two plates of glass. No suspects at the time of the shooting but several shots were reported just before the window received damage. The initial call was taken by the county police.

This report was prepared by:

MD Hunter Education Program