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TEXAS STATE DOCUMENT
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAN AMERICAN
EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539-2999

1989
TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENTS
ANALYSIS

U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT
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NOV 04 1990
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAN AMERICAN
EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539-2999



Federal Aid Project
W-104-S



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TEXAS STATE DOCUMENT
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAN AMERICAN
EDINBURGH, TEXAS 78840-2020

TEXAS HUNTING ACCIDENT PROFILE

* Violated a cardinal rule of hunter safety

* Anglo male

* Hunted deer with rifle
or
dove with shotgun

* Was typically not under the influence
of alcohol or drugs

* Did not attend a hunter education
(safety) course or program

* Did not wear any type of hunter orange
clothing

* Was lawfully hunting

* Was situated in or around vehicle or
stand

* Sustained a non-fatal injury

* Hunted on privately owned land



* 29 years old (average)

* Had over 10 years of hunting
experience

* If not self inflicted - -

Mistook another hunter for game or
swung shotgun on game outside of
safe zone-of-fire

* If self-inflicted - -

Handled firearm carelessly and
pointed muzzle at foot or another
part of body

* Distance of muzzle to wound was
within 50 yards, mostly within 10 yards

* Victim was in light to open cover with
clear visibility

* Accident occurred on weekend during
November or December

HUNTING ACCIDENT DESCRIPTIONS

1989

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>SHOOTER'S AGE</u>	<u>FIREARM</u>	<u>GAME HUNTED</u>	<u>SELF INFLICTED?</u>	<u>FATAL?</u>	<u>HUNTER ED. GRADUATE</u>
Tom Green	40	Shotgun	Deer & Turkey	No	Yes	Yes
Comments:	The incident took place on public land around 7:30 a.m. The shooter was sitting in a swivel-type chair in an elevated stand. He heard a noise and turned to see movement behind a bush. Thinking it was a turkey's head bobbing up and down, he took aim and fired; killing a 36-year-old victim.					
Jack	17	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes	Yes
Comments:	This accident occurred following a morning hunt. The shooter was sitting on the tailgate of the pick-up truck unloading his rifle and accidentally bumped the trigger. The bullet went through the pick-up wall striking the victim in the lower back.					
Webb	45	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes	No
Comments:	The 50-year-old victim was killed while sitting in her car parked in a "sendero" (brush clearing). She was shot in the head by a hunter who was out of sight of the victim.					
San Jacinto	34	Rifle	Raccoon	Yes	Yes	No
Comments:	The victim, 34, was climbing over a fence when he started to fall and tried to catch himself with the butt of the rifle, causing the rifle to discharge, shooting himself in the neck.					
Lampasas	64	Rifle	Deer	Yes	Yes	No
Comments:	After shooting at a deer, the victim was climbing down from his stand when his rifle, which he had left in the stand, fell. The rifle discharged and the bullet struck him in the chest.					
Uvalde	49	Rifle	Deer	Yes	Yes	No
Comments:	The 49-year-old victim was pulling his loaded rifle out from behind the seat of his truck by the barrel. The trigger caught, discharging the bullet into his rib cage, fragmenting the spine.					
Montague	16	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes	No
Comments:	The 14-year-old victim was accidentally shot in the stomach by his 16-year-old brother who pointed the rifle muzzle in his direction as he turned to talk to the victim.					
Nacogdoches	31	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes	No
Comments:	A 13-year-old boy was mistaken for game as he moved through cover. He was wearing camouflage pants and a purple vest. The shooter, who was forty-two steps away in a tree stand, fired when he first saw movement. The bullet traveled through the boy's midsection.					
Denton	18	Shotgun	Duck	No	Yes	No
Comments:	The victim, age 19, died when he was shot in the back of the head after he moved into the line of fire of an 18-year-old friend. They were hunting ducks on the last day of the season.					
Cass	31	Shotgun	Deer	No	Yes	No
Comments:	The victim was shot in the upper body and face with buck shot when he was mistaken for game. The shooter was in a deer stand approximately 35 yards away.					
Young	35	Rifle	Varmits	Yes	No	Yes
Comments:	The victim was loading a gun and accidentally fired it towards his toe.					

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Houston Comments:	17 The 16-year-old victim was killed when he was mistaken for game. Using a rifle with open sights, a 17-year-old hunter saw movement in the brush and fired, striking the victim in the lower abdomen.	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes	No
Houston Comments:	18 The 51-year-old victim was shot in the left side of his chest when an 18-year-old placed a loaded rifle into a gun rack in a pickup truck.	Rifle	Deer	No	Yes	No
Young Comments:	18 The 18-year-old shooter fired at a turtle and the bullet ricocheted into his hunting partner.	Rifle	Turtles	No	No	No
Armstrong Comments:	39 The 39-year-old shooter accidentally shot a hunting partner when he was swinging his shotgun at flying quail.	Shotgun	Quail	No	No	No
Newton Comments:	18 An 18-year-old shot his 17-year-old brother with 000 buckshot, not knowing the victim was in the area.	Shotgun	Deer	No	No	No
Trinity Comments:	14 An 11-year-old boy moved into the line of fire of a shooter and was shot above the ankle.	Rifle	Squirrel	No	No	No
Erath Comments:	29 The 29-year-old hunter shot at a squirrel. The bullet ricocheted and hit a 22-year-old who was working on a highway adjacent to the land. The victim was shot in the upper left leg.	Rifle	Squirrel	No	No	No
Palo Pinto Comments:	Unknown The 65-year-old victim was shot by a hunter who fired out of his safe zone-of-fire. The victim was hit in the face, chest, and both arms with pellets.	Shotgun	Quail	No	No	No
Hardin Comments:	34 A 25-year-old victim was shot with buckshot pellets in the right calf, right thigh, and the right arm when he and his dog were mistaken for game. The shooter saw the victim's dog and thought it was a deer.	Shotgun	Deer	No	No	No
Jefferson Comments:	11 The 14-year-old victim was shot in the right upper thigh, due to his 11-year-old brother handling the rifle carelessly.	Rifle	Rabbit	No	No	No
Jones Comments:	27 A 27-year-old shooter fired at a dove flying over, and one of the pellets struck his 30-year-old hunting partner above his left eye.	Shotgun	Dove	No	No	Yes
Hardin Comments:	26 A 15-year-old boy was shot through the body and into the arm after he and his 11-year-old brother trespassed onto private land. The victim was shot by a 26-year-old hunter who shot at the boy's "movement" in the brush.	Rifle	Deer	No	No	No
Webb Comments:	20 A party of three hunters were hunting on 14 acres. Each hunter placed himself in a different location. A 19-year-old victim was struck in the shoulder when a 20-year-old, who was out of sight, fired a shot.	Rifle	Deer	No	No	No
Jack Comments:	14 The victim had a loaded rifle in an insecure position in his vehicle.	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No	No

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Coleman Comments:	28 The 27-year-old victim was mistaken for game and shot in the leg.	Rifle	Deer & Turkey	No	No	Yes
San Jacinto Comments:	16 The 16-year-old hunter mistook a 17-year-old victim for game. The victim suffered shotgun pellets to the head.	Shotgun	Squirrel	No	No	Yes
Sabine Comments:	17 A 16-year-old was shot by a 17-year-old hunter who thought he was shooting at a squirrel.	Shotgun	Squirrel	No	No	No
Madison Comments:	45 The hunter thought his friend's white t-shirt was a deer "flagging" and fired his shotgun. The buckshot hit two victims.	Shotgun	Deer	No	No	No
Hardin Comments:	30 The hunter was under the influence of drugs and fired at what he thought was a deer. He was hunting on a public road and shot a 42-year-old victim with buckshot in the back.	Shotgun	Deer	No	No	No
Denton Comments:	42 A 49-year-old victim was shot in the arm, back, head, and buttocks as a 42-year-old hunter was swinging on game out of his safe zone-of-fire.	Shotgun	Dove	No	No	No
Coke Comments:	32 While swinging on game out of his safe zone-of-fire, the 32-year-old hunter shot a 36-year-old victim in the back and elbow.	Shotgun	Dove	No	No	No
Tom Green Comments:	15 A 15-year-old was attempting to shoot at doves flying overhead and slipped and fell. He fired his shotgun and the pellets struck his father, in the shoulder, at a distance of 8 feet.	Shotgun	Dove	No	No	No
Ellis Comments:	23 The 23-year-old victim had changed locations without letting his hunting partner know. The shooter thought he was firing at a dove in a safe zone-of-fire and did not see the victim who had moved into the line of fire.	Shotgun	Dove	No	No	No
Hardeman Comments:	20-29 The 24-year-old victim was shot in the left leg when his hunting partner fired out of his safe zone-of-fire.	Shotgun	Dove	No	No	No
Mitchell Comments:	Unknown The 19-year-old victim was shot by several hunters as he walked into the hunting area. The subject walked into the line of fire.	Shotgun	Dove	No	No	No
Erath Comments:	Unknown A 29-year-old hunter shot his hunting partner as they both approached a dove that had landed in a sunflower field. They approached from opposite sides of the field. As the dove flew the 29-year-old hunter shot and hit his partner in the forehead and chest area with bird shot.	Shotgun	Dove	No	No	No
Leon Comments:	Unknown The shooter was getting out of a truck, carelessly handling and firing a loaded rifle, sending bullet fragments into the leg of a 13-year-old victim.	Rifle	Deer	No	No	No
Montague Comments:	25 The victim was unloading a 4-wheel ATV, when his handgun fell out of its unsecured holster position and discharged. The bullet traveled through the victim's side.	Handgun	Deer	Yes	No	Yes

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Cherokee Comments:	Unknown	Rifle	Deer	No	No	No
A 57-year-old victim was shot in the back by an unknown hunter. He was hunting on public land and was either mistaken for game or out of sight of the shooter.						
Runnels Comments:	Unknown	Rifle	Deer	No	No	No
A 43-year-old victim was shot in the ankle by an unknown hunter. The physician stated that it was probably a ricochet.						
Denton Comments:	Unknown	Rifle	Waterfowl	No	No	No
The 31-year-old hunter was shot in the head with a .22 long rifle bullet. The bullet had apparently traveled 3/4 mile over a body of water to the other side and hit the victim who was waterfowl hunting.						
Kleberg Comments:	Unknown	Shotgun	Quail	No	No	No
The victim was covered by shooter swinging on game and was struck in the face with bird shot.						
Zavala Comments:	26	Rifle	Deer	No	No	No
The 26-year-old hunter was charged with discharging a firearm from a public road and reckless conduct. The 43-year-old victim was shot at more than 100 yards away, and the bullet traveled through his stomach and left wrist.						
Houston Comments:	26	Rifle	Deer	No	No	No
The 26-year-old victim was shot by his 26-year-old friend, who lost control of his rifle, when the rifle slipped off the arm of the shooter. The bullet wound was to the victim's right hand.						
Mills Comments:	25	Shotgun	Quail	No	No	No
The 35-year-old victim was shot by a hunter who swung on game. The bird shot entered just under the skin.						
Smith Comments:	20	Rifle	Deer	No	No	No
A 18-year-old victim was shot as she was mistaken for game after walking in and out of the brushy habitat. She was not wearing hunter orange. The bullet entered her right chest and exited through her left side and arm.						
Kimble Comments:	48	Rifle	Deer	No	No	No
A 41-year-old victim was shot by a 48-year-old hunter who was carelessly loading his rifle while pointing the gun in the victim's direction. The victim was struck in the upper left arm.						
Kleberg Comments:	33	Shotgun	Dove	No	No	No
A 45-year-old victim was shot with bird shot as the shooter swung on game and fired out of his safe zone. They were hunting in dense cover and there was partly overcast conditions.						
Chambers Comments:	28	Shotgun	Dove	No	No	No
The 28-year-old shooter shot a 23-year-old victim with bird shot, to the facial area, as he swung on game out of his safe zone of fire.						
Jasper Comments:	33	Rifle	Deer	No	No	No
The victim was shot in the knee after his rifle fell from an insecure rest.						
Robertson Comments:	45	Handgun	Deer	Yes	No	No
The victim shot himself while riding in a vehicle with a loaded .44 caliber handgun which he had pointed towards his leg.						

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Maverick Comments:	53	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No	No
The hunter was removing a loaded rifle from a vehicle with the muzzle pointed toward his foot. The damage was so severe the foot had to be amputated.						
Wilbarger Comments:	43	Shotgun	Quail	Yes	No	No
The victim carelessly loaded and handled his semi-automatic shotgun. Losing his grip, he accidentally fired the gun twice. The second shot discharged into his hand breaking several bones and injuring several fingers.						
Brown Comments:	19	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No	No
The victim's gun blew up because of high pressures due to faulty reloaded ammunition. The victim suffered metal shrapnel to the stomach, left forearm, and the right leg at the knee.						
Brown Comments:	28	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No	No
In a related incident, the victim's shotgun blew up because of high pressures due to faulty reloaded ammunition. The victim suffered shrapnel to the right forearm (a 7" shrapnel rip to the bone.)						
Refugio Comments:	16	Shotgun	Quail	Yes	No	Yes
The victim stumbled and fell causing his shotgun to discharge. He lost a toe from his left foot.						
Grayson Comments:	16	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No	No
The victim had his safety off and had set the shotgun down on the bumper of a truck. The gun fell, causing it to discharge. The victim was shot on the left side of his head. He lost an eye, causing damage to that eye socket and cheek bone.						
Lampasas Comments:	15	Shotgun	Dove	Yes	No	No
The victim's shotgun blew apart, probably because of an obstruction in the barrel. The victim suffered lacerations to the arm.						
Schleicher Comments:	18	Shotgun	Quail	Yes	No	No
The victim was trying to clear some mud from the barrel with one hand while accidentally firing the shotgun. He lost his third finger and part of his second finger.						
Shelby Comments:	39	Shotgun	Armadillo	Yes	No	No
The victim checked to see if the "safety" was on by pulling the trigger, while the muzzle was on his foot, the gun discharged causing damage to the big toe and breaking two other toes.						
Lee Comments:	18	Shotgun	Squirrel	Yes	No	No
The victim placed the barrel on his boot and was playing with the trigger, causing the shotgun to discharge. The impact was between the first two toes on the right foot.						
Marion Comments:	36	Shotgun	Squirrel	Yes	No	No
The victim was under the influence of alcohol or drugs, when he stumbled and fell, causing his shotgun to discharge. He suffered wounds to his abdomen and face.						
Lampasas Comments:	35	Handgun	Deer	Yes	No	Yes
The victim prepared to shoot a deer, but the deer ran off. The victim put the handgun back into the holster in the full cock position. As he pulled the handgun back out of the holster, the gun discharged, and the bullet entered the calf muscle.						

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Brown Comments:	61	Rifle	Raccoon	Yes	No	No
The victim was trying to see if he could get a faulty rifle to fire. He bumped the rifle against a tree and it discharged striking him in the thigh.						
Sutton Comments:	15	Rifle	Turkey	Yes	No	No
The victim accidentally fired his rifle while his thumb was over the barrel.						
Gonzales Comments:	12	Rifle	Turtles	Yes	No	No
The victim was walking through heavy brush with the safety off. When he raised up from the brush, the trigger apparently caught on something and discharged. The bullet entered under the chin and traveled into the brain area.						
Starr Comments:	15	Rifle	Deer & Rabbit	Yes	No	No
The victim was hunting from a vehicle on a public road when an officer saw him. As the officer went to pull him over, the 15-year-old victim tried nervously and quickly to unload the rifle and accidentally shot his ankle.						
Val Verde Comments:	52	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No	No
The victim was riding on rough terrain in a raised hunting seat accidentally firing his uncontrolled rifle. The bullet passed through his left wrist, severely limiting the use of the hand.						
Panola Comments:	45	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No	No
The victim had dropped his rifle and was wiping the dirt from the barrel, when he accidentally fired it. The bullet passed through his left wrist.						
Houston Comments:	21	Rifle	Squirrel	Yes	No	No
The victim shot himself in the foot after the trigger caught on an object with the safety off.						
Menard Comments:	20	Rifle	Raccoon	Yes	No	No
The victim carelessly let the hammer down, firing a lever action rifle which was pointed towards his left foot.						
Freestone Comments:	33	Rifle	Deer	Yes	No	No
The victim was trying to change hands with the gun when he lost control and fired it towards his foot. The victim's third toe was blown off.						
Comanche Comments:	17	Rifle	Unknown	Yes	No	No
The victim was shot in his right hand when he tried to improperly cross a fence with a loaded rifle, safety off.						
Palo Pinto Comments:	8	Airgun	"Black birds"	Yes	No	No
The 8-year-old child was unsupervised with a .177 caliber airgun. The child shot his left toe as he put the barrel on his foot and pulled the trigger to see if the safety was on.						
Polk Comments:	28	Handgun	Deer	Yes	No	No
The victim was playing with the hammer. It slipped and caused the handgun to discharge as the muzzle was pointed towards his foot.						
Sabine Comments:	76	Handgun	Armadillo	Yes	No	No
The victim was preparing to shoot when he dropped the handgun, causing it to discharge, hitting the victim in the foot.						
Houston Comments:	24	Handgun	Deer	Yes	No	No
The victim shot himself in the left leg when the trigger on his ready-to-fire handgun caught on an object.						