

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Maryland Hunting Accident Report
FY23**

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		1
30 – 39 Years				1
40 – 49 Years				
50 – 59 Years		1	2	4
60+ Years			2	7
Unknown				
TOTALS		2	4	13

Causes	Two Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Careless Handling				3
Fall From Tree Stand			1	9
Victim Mistaken for Game		1		
Victim Covered by Shooter		1		
Finger on Trigger				1
Medical			3	
TOTALS		2	4	13

Distance From Shooter To Victim	Two Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
00 – 10 Yards		
11 – 50 Yards		1
51 Yards & Over		1
TOTALS		2

Victim Wearing Hunter Orange	Two Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Yes	2	9
No		
Not Applicable	1	6
Unknown	1	
TOTALS	4	15

Weather and/or Lighting Conditions	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Clear		1	1	7
Partly Overcast			1	2
Pre-Dawn/Dusk		1	1	2
Unknown			1	2
TOTALS		2	4	13

Game Species Hunted	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Deer		2	3	11
Squirrel				1
Dove			1	
Geese/Ducks				
Rabbit				1
Turkey				
Woodchuck				
TOTALS		2	4	13

Hunting Device Used	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Rifle			1	6
Muzzleloader			1	
Shotgun		1	1	2
Bow		1	1	4
Crossbow				1
Unknown				
TOTALS		2	4	13

Summary

A 77-year-old Charles County Dove hunter was reported missing by relatives who lived out of the state. The victim was found deceased at Cedar Point Wildlife Management area. After an investigation it was determined there was no foul play and the victim was hunting alone. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner concluded the victims' death was caused by cardiovascular disease.

A 27-year-old Allegany County Deer hunter fell approximately 10 feet from a tree while bow hunting. The subject was climbing down using his climber 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 61-year-old Howard County Deer hunter fell approximately 25 feet from a tree while bow hunting. The subject was climbing up the tree using his climber 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 via Medivac to shock trauma for treatment to his chest and hip.

A 53-year-old Wicomico County Deer hunter fell approximately 12 feet from a tree while bow hunting. The subject was descending his tree stand using climbing sticks. The subject was using a safety harness but detached it to get around a limb the moment he fell. The subject was transported to Tidal Health hospital for a broken femur and possible head injury.

A 58-year-old Washington County Deer hunter shot a deer while bow hunting. The subject was in the process of retrieving the deer when he suffered a heart attack. The responding officers attempted CPR while waiting for EMS to arrive. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner completed the official autopsy report which concluded the cause of death to be natural.

A 61-year-old Washington County small game hunter was transported to Union hospital for injuries to his left hand. While squirrel hunting the subject was using a 12 gauge double barrel shotgun. The barrel exploded causing injury to his hand when the subject pulled the trigger.

A 51-year-old Dorchester County Deer hunter fell approximately 20 feet from a tree stand. The subject was standing on the base of the stand not wearing a harness when the cable attaching the base to the tree broke. The subject fell to the ground causing injuries to his spine and was transported to shock trauma.

A 54-year-old Fredrick County Deer hunter fell approximately 15 feet from a tree stand. The subject was not wearing a safety harness at the time of the incident. The subject was not feeling well and passed out causing him to fall to the ground. He suffered injuries to his head, neck and back. The subject was transported to shock trauma via helicopter.

A 63-year-old Charles County Deer hunter fell approximately 8 feet from a tree stand. The subject was descending the tree using a climbing tree stand. The subject did not have his safety harness attached to the tree during his descent. He was transported to Charles Regional Medical Center for injuries to his lower body.

A 59-year-old Talbot County Deer hunter was shot by another hunter from approximately 105 yards away. The victim was standing in the woods wearing an orange jacket when he heard a gunshot and felt pain in his side. The subject who fired the shot was aiming at a deer and missed causing the bullet to travel beyond his intended target striking the victim. The hunters were both hunting from the ground and could not see each other at the time the shot was fired. The victim was transported to the hospital for treatment.

A 64-year-old Dorchester County Deer hunter fell from a tripod stand. The subject fell to the ground from approximately 12 feet while descending causing injury to his lower body. The subject was transported via helicopter to the hospital.

A 57-year-old Allegany County Deer hunter was found deceased approximately 75 yards from his tree stand. The victim had been diagnosed with prior health issues including cardiovascular disease. The victim had been hunting during the morning hours and while walking back to his cabin he suffered a heart attack. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner completed the official autopsy report which concluded the cause of death to be natural.

A 65-year-old Frederick County hunter was hunting deer in a wooden tripod stand. While he was hunting the floor of the homemade tripod stand fell to the ground. The subject fell approximately 10 feet to the ground. The subject was transported to the hospital for injuries to his back.

A 38-year-old Washington County Deer hunter shot himself in the foot with his rifle. The subject stated that he had his muzzle pointed at the ground and the gun went off when he loaded the round in the chamber. The subject was taken to the hospital for his foot injury.

A 52-year-old Frederick County small game hunter was rabbit hunting using a 12 gauge shotgun. The subject was crossing a fence when the gun fell causing it to fire. The pellets from the fired shell hit the tree next to him and deflected into his calf causing injuries. The subject drove himself to the hospital to receive care.

A 25-year-old Somerset County Deer hunter was shot in the leg by another hunter while walking out of the woods. The victim was walking to his truck at approximately 1745 hours when another hunter thought he was a deer and shot the subject with his bow. The arrow passed through the victim's thigh which needed a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. The victim was transported to the hospital via EMS. The subject who shot the victim was charged with negligent discharge and hunting at nighttime among other violations.

A 63-year-old Pennsylvania Deer hunter was found deceased at the base of a tree on public land in Carroll County. The victim had fallen while climbing up a tree using a climbing tree stand from approximately 17' up. It was determined the tree was a tulip poplar which was slick from the rain which caused the bottom section of the climbing stand to slide down the tree. The victim was wearing a fall arrest system but it was not attached to the tree.

A 70-year-old Worcester County Deer hunter fell approximately 15 feet while climbing an extension ladder attached to an elevated box blind. The subject was attempting to deer hunt when a strap holding the ladder to the blind broke causing the subject to lose his balance and fall to the ground. The subject sustained a concussion, ruptured bladder and multiple broken vertebrae. The subject was transported to Tidal health for initial treatment then airlifted to shock trauma for further medical treatment.

A 68-year-old Caroline County Deer hunter suffered a dislocated and severed thumb while bow hunting. The subject was using a crossbow when he attempted to shoot a deer. His thumb was placed above the finger guard near the rail when he pulled the trigger causing the string to make contact with his thumb. He was transported via helicopter to a Curtis hand center for treatment.

This report was prepared by:

MD Hunter Education Program