

2020 Hunting Incidents

Type A Hunting Safety Incidents are those that involve the discharge of a hunting device

Type B Hunting Safety Incidents are those that do not involve the discharge of a hunting device

Type C Hunting Safety Incidents are those that are medical issues while in the field or injuries suffered while in the field, but not from the act of hunting

Type	Injury	Cause	County	Date	Day	Time	ShooterSex	ShooterAge	Shooter Legally Hunting	Shooter Hunter Education	Implement	Species Hunted	Description
A	Minor	Careless Handling	Will	1/3	Friday	9:00 AM	M	61	No	No	.22 Rifle	Squirrel	Individual was hunting squirrels around his residence when he fired a shot that struck a neighbor's residence. The bullet penetrated the siding of the home, and went through the wall into a bedroom. There was one person in the house that was uninjured.
A	Minor	Self inflicted Careless Handling	Jasper	1/4	Sat	4:00 PM	M	23	Yes	Yes	.22 Revolver	Raccoon	The individual was checking a trap line, and needed to dispatch a raccoon that he had caught. To load the revolver, the hammer had to be held slightly back. When lowering the hammer his finger slipped releasing the hammer with enough force to fire the revolver. He was shot in the leg, bullet lodged behind the kneecap.
A	Major	Self inflicted Careless Handling	Clinton	2/15	Sat	10:45 AM	M	71	Yes	No	20 gauge Shotgun	Quail	Safety mechanism was turned off when firearm brushed against hunter's coveralls. When the gun slipped and the butt hit the frozen ground, the gun discharged. Hunter was struck in abdominal area, requiring hospitalization.
A	Minor	Shooter unaware of zone of fire	Grundy	2/23	Sun	11:40 AM	M	43	Yes	Yes	12 gauge Shotgun	Pheasant	Shooter and victim were in the same hunting party. Shooter shot at a bird that his dog had flushed from the brush. The shot went in the direction of the victim, unseen by the shooter. Victim suffered minor wounds due to his safety glasses and heavily padded hunting vest.
A	Major	Victim mistaken for game	Madison	4/19	Sun	7:30 AM	M	50	No	No	Crossbow	Turkey	Shooter and victim were hunters in different parties. Neither were aware of the other's presence on the property. Both individuals were stalking the same turkey, when the shooter saw what he thought was the turkey and shot at it; however, it was a decoy in the victim's backpack. Victim suffered a laceration from elbow to wrist, severing an artery, nerves, and tendons. Neither hunter possessed proper permits.
A	Minor	Victims out of sight	Cass	11/7	Sat	9:30AM	M	68	Yes	No	20 gauge Shotgun	Quail	Shooter was hunting on public land and shot at a flushed bird. He was unaware that two archery deer hunters were placing a tree stand in the timber. Both deer hunters were in camouflage and out of view. Injuries were minor with one pellet penetrating under the eye of a deer hunter.
A	Minor	Shooter swung on victim	Hamilton	11/11	Wed	11:30AM	M	74	Yes	No	Shotgun	Quail	Shooter and victim were in the same hunting party. Victim stepped in grassy area to flush covey of quail and the shooter made a quick shot in the victim's direction. Victim suffered multiple bird shot penetration to left leg.
A	Minor	Shooter unaware of surroundings	Williamson	11/15	Sun	7:00AM	F	32	Yes Apprentice	No	Crossbow	Deer	Shooter and victim were in the tree stand. Shooter shot at a deer with her crossbow, the recoil of the limbs struck the victim on the side of the head. Victim suffered a laceration to side of forehead.

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A	Personal Property	Shooter mis-identified target	Henry	11/22	Sun	4:30PM	M	31	Yes	Yes	Firearm	Deer	When looking through a wooded ravine, the hunter misidentified a horse as a deer and shot it. The 5 year old registered American Quarter Horse mare sustained 1 fatal gun shot and died in the pasture.
A	Major	Self inflicted careless handling	Jefferson	11/28	Sat	4:45PM	M	26	No	No	Crossbow	Deer	Shooter/victim was road hunting. He exited his vehicle to attempt to shoot a deer with his crossbow. He did not shoot at the deer and preceeded to enter his truck handing the crossbow to the passenger in the backseat. Crossbow discharged, the bolt struck the victim in the thigh.
A	Minor	Victim covered by shooter	Effingham	12/19	Sat	11:00AM	M	69	Yes	No	20 gauge shotgun	Quail	Shooter and victim were in same hunting party. Both were walking along opposite sides of a fence row, when the victim went into a low area the shooter lost sight of him. When a covey of quail flew, the shooter shot in the direction of the victim. Victim was peppered and suffered minor injuries.
A	Major	Shooter swung on victime	Jefferson	12/22	Tue	7:30Am	M	9	Yes Apprentice	No	410 shotgun	Ducks	Shooter and victim were sitting together in the same blind. A bird was flying in and all hunters in blind prepared to shoot when one fired early and struck the other hunter. Victim suffered gunshot wounds to upper arm and forearms.

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B	Major	Misstep Improper use of tree	Wabash	10/5	Mon	10:20AM	M	49	Yes	No	Crossbow	Deer	Hunter was using an extension ladder and limbs to ascend and descend a tree for hunting. While descending the tree he misplaced his foot on a limb and fell on a limb "racking" himself. He then leaned back and fell out of the tree onto his head. Hunter suffered a concussion and broken vertebrae.
B	FATAL	Fall	Winnebago	10/11	Sun	4:30PM	M	46	Yes	Yes	N/A	Deer	Individual was the supervising adult on a youth deer hunt. Victim and youth had climbed into the elevated stand for the evening hunt. After 5-10 minutes on the stand, victim made a noise like snoring and fell forward, falling from the stand. Victim suffered rib fracture, lung contusion, brain hemorrhage. No Fall Arrest System was being used.
B	Major	Equipment break Fall	Rock Island	11/5	Thur	3:30PM	M	57	Yes	No	Crossbow	Deer	Hunter had been seated on his treestand for a few hours when he stood up. Upon standing up he felt the base of the stand break, causing it to move, which caused the hunter to fall. He suffered a pelvis fracture, vertebrae fracture, sacrum fracture, rib fractures, and punctured lung. No Fall Arrest System was being used.
B	Major	Improper use of tree	Jasper	11/7	Sat	2:25PM	M	49	Yes	Yes	Deer	Compound Bow	Hunter was using a tree branch to balance himself when he was adjusting equipment on his stand. The branch broke causing the hunter to lose his balance and fall. Hunter suffered two fractured feet. Fall Arrest System was not attached to tree.
B	Major	Equipment break	Morgan	11/14	Sat	4:45PM	M	46	Yes	Yes	Deer	Crossbow	Hunter was preparing to descend from his treestand when the strap on the climbing stick broke. The climbing stick fell away from the tree causing the hunter to lose his grip and fall 20 feet. Hunter suffered a broken femur at the hip socket. No Fall Arrest System was being used.
B	Minor	Slipped	Marion	11/14	Sat	3:30PM	F	29	Yes	Yes	Deer	Compound Bow	Hunter slipped on top step when climbing down from her ladder treestand. Hunter suffered fractured arm and bruised upper back. No Fall Arrest System was being used.
B	Major	Fall	JoDaviess	11/16	Mon	7:00AM	M	69	Yes	Yes	Deer	Crossbow	Hunter fell from treestand when using a climbing style treestand. Hunter sustained several broken bones. No Fall Arrest System was being used.
B	Major	Equipment break	St. Clair	11/20	Fri	4:45PM	M	47	Yes	Yes	Deer	12 gauge Shotgun	Hunter was sitting in his treestand when he heard a loud snap and felt the stand shift. When he stood up the stand broke free and dropped straight down to the ground. Hunter hit the ground landing on both feet and rolling to his side. He suffered a fractured tibia, ankle and 3 fractured ribs. No Fall Arrest System was being used.
B	Minor	Improper use of equipment	Wayne	11/22	Sun	6:00AM	M	34	Yes	No	Deer	Crossbow	Hunter was using a climber style treestand, once he reached his desired height he pulled his equipment up. Shortly after, the bottom portion of the climbing stand dropped 5 feet causing the hunter to fall to the ground. The tree being climbed had slick bark and a rainy day caused for poor climbing conditions. No Fall Arrest System was being used.
B	Minor	Lost grip	Perry	11/25	Wed	5:30PM	M	20	Yes	Yes	Deer	Compound Bow	While using climbing sticks to descend from his treestand, hunter lost his grip and fell backwards. He fell 12-15 feet on his back, and did not suffer any severe injuries. No Fall Arrest System was being used.

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C	Minor	Fall	Perry	10/18	Sun	10:00AM	M	35	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	Individual was installing a treestand. While on the treestand he turned to check line of sight when a support cable on the platform broke. Platform fell flat against tree, individual fell, suffering a broken nose and fractured ankle. No Fall Arrest System was being used.
C	Minor	Fall	Alexander	11/1	Sun	7:30AM	F	39	N/A		N/A	N/A	Individual was taking a treestand down, when she sat down on the seat the treestand folded and did not support her. She was accompanied by two other individual who assisted her and called for help. Treestand was not properly strapped to the tree and she was not using a Fall Arrest System. Individual suffered moderate injuries.
C	Major	Fall	Cass	11/2	Mon	1:00PM	M	56	N/A	Unknown	N/A	N/A	Individual was attempting to install a treestand. He was climbing the tree using individual climbing sticks when the one he was on shifted and caused him to fall. Individual fell 12 feet suffering 6 fractured ribs, collapsed lung and hip contusion. No Fall Arrest System was being used.
C	Major	Fall	Perry	11/5	Thur	11:00AM	M	28	N/A		N/A	N/A	Individual had just installed a ladderstand. While attempting to secure a safety harness strap to the tree, individual fell 18 feet from the stand. His partner immediately contacted 911. Individual suffered a broken collar bone, five fractured ribs, a broken bone in his back and a bone piercing his spinal cord.
C	FATAL	Medical	Putnam	11/13	Fri	4:45PM	M	83	Yes	No	Deer	Crossbow	Hunter suffered a ruptured abdominal atherosclerotic aneurysm.
C	FATAL	Heart Attack	Williamson	11/21	Sat	6:30AM	M	67	Yes	No	Deer	Shotgun	Hunter suffered a heart attack while sitting in his treestand.
C	FATAL	Heart Attack	JoDaviess	11/22	Sun	10:00AM	M	75	Yes	No	Deer	Shotgun	Hunter was found face down on ground by other hunters in the party. Hunter suffered a heart attack.
C	FATAL	Cardic Arrest	Rock Island	11/29	Sun	9:15AM	M	59	Yes	No	Duck Goose	N/A	Hunter was picking up waterfowl decoys when he collapsed in the water. Hunter suffered a cardiac arrest.
C	Major	Unknown	Fayette	12/13	Sun	3:00PM	M	68	Yes	Yes	Deer	Muzzleloader	Hunter was walking along the woods and has no recollection of what happened. He showed up bloody and extremely confused. Possible head injury by falling and being struck in the head/face by an object or struck by a falling limb/branch.