

**Maryland Hunting Accident Report
FY 18
2017/2018 Hunting Season(s)**

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				
40 – 49 Years				4
50 – 59 Years			1	2
60+ Years				1
Unknown				
TOTALS			1	8

Causes	Two Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Careless Handling			1	2
Fall From Tree Stand				5
Victim Mistaken for Game				
Victim Covered by Shooter				
Finger on Trigger				
TOTALS			1	7

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

Victim Wearing	Two Party
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Hunter Orange	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Yes		
No		1
Not Applicable		8
Unknown		
TOTALS		9

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

Game Species Hunted	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Deer			1	5
Squirrel				
Dove				
Geese/Ducks				3
Rabbit				
Turkey				
Unknown				
TOTALS			1	8

Hunting Device Used	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Rifle				
Muzzleloader				
Shotgun				4
Bow			1	2
Unknown or N/A				2
TOTALS			1	8

Summary

**** Indicates “Tree Stand Accident”**

A 59-year-old Montgomery County Deer Hunter (Stand was being set-up prior to the opening of archery season) fell approximately 17 feet while setting up his ladder type stand. Once the stand was in place the victim climbed up and proceeded to step onto the platform at this point the ladder portion began to buckle about the mid-way point causing the victim to fall out. The victim was not wearing a safety harness. The victim suffered a fractured leg, multiple fractures to the face as well as multiple abrasions and bruises.

**** Tree Stand Accident**

A 22-year-old Frederick County (Archery season) deer hunter fell approximately 18 feet after climbing up in a ladder type stand then stepping out onto a hang on stand set up in the same tree. From the investigation that followed it was determined that the stand was in poor condition along with the hook and loop strap used to secure the stand to the tree. Apparently when the victim put his entire weight onto the stand the strap failed causing the hunter and stand to fall to the ground. The victim was not wearing a safety harness. The victim sustained three fractures to the lower spine.

**** Tree Stand Accident**

A 63-year-old Worcester County (evening prior to early muzzleloader) deer hunter fell approximately 15 feet from a home made (approximately 15 year old) box style stand. Apparently the stand is accessed through a hatch door on the platform of the stand. While climbing down from the unit the handle on the hatch door broke off causing the hunter to slip on the steps and fall to the ground. The victim sustained on minor injuries and was not wearing a safety harness.

** Tree Stand Accident

A 57-year-old Frederick County (archery season) deer hunter was found deceased due to an apparent ATV rollover accident. The victim was pronounced deceased on an embankment at the scene. It was later ruled that the victim died from compressional asphyxia.

* **Fatal**

A 46-year-old Frederick County (archery season) deer hunter fell approximately 20 feet from a ladder style tree stand while attempting to install a hang on stand above the existing stand. The existing stand buckled while the hunter's weight was supported on the platform. The victim suffered lacerations to both hands and a severed pinky finger. The victim was not wearing a safety harness.

** Tree Stand Accident

A 49-year-old Cecil County (muzzleloader season) deer hunter fell approximately 12 feet when he fell asleep while on the stand. The hunter admitted to having a shot of Jagermeister and drinking a beer prior to sunrise while in the tree stand (also having been out drinking the evening before). The hunter luckily only sustained minor injuries, but was subsequently charged with six counts of violating natural resources laws and regulations, including hunting with a modern firearm during muzzleloader season.

** Tree Stand Accident

A 46-year-old Anne Arundel County waterfowl hunter was rescued from frigid icy waters after an emergency call was dispatched from the Natural Resources Police Communications Center. The waterfowl hunter was located hanging onto his kayak near the mouth of the Patapsco River. The hunter's head was the only thing above water and barely conscious at the time of contact and barely able to speak. The victim suffered non-life threatening injuries but was lucky that someone had observed the incident and was able to call for emergency response with their cell phone.

A 49-year-old Cecil County waterfowl hunter shot himself in the foot while utilizing a kayak to go out onto the river in an attempt to retrieve several crippled ducks. Three of four ducks were successfully recovered when the hunter covered his lower leg and the shotgun discharged. The hunter's kayak, jacket, gloves and shotgun were all icy and the hunter didn't exactly recall how the gun discharged. The hunter was transported to the nearest hospital (which was in Delaware) with non-life threatening injuries.

A 51-year-old Talbot County goose hunter received multiple trauma to the head and face when after shooting at a group of geese with other members of the hunting party was struck in the head by a goose that had just been shot. The hunter was flown out by State Police Trooper 6 helicopter to Shock Trauma. The victim recovered shortly after.

Property Damage

This report was prepared by:

MD Hunter Education Program