

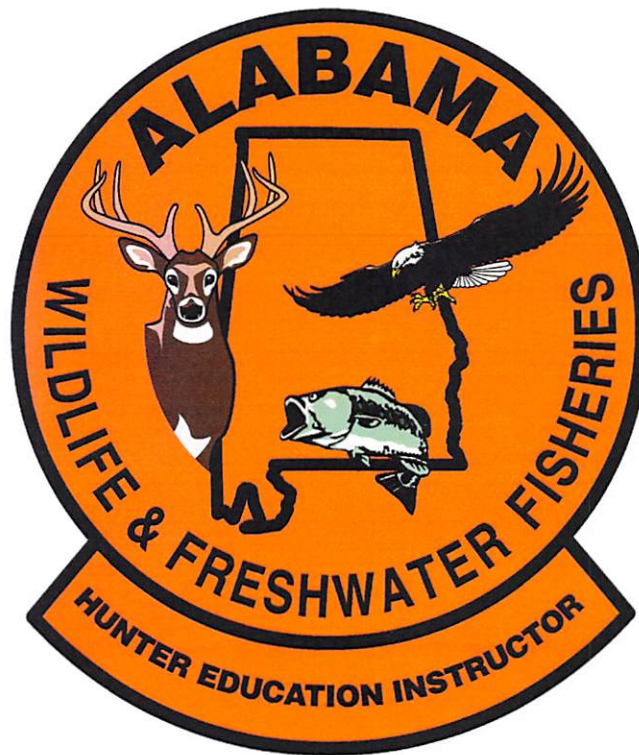
ALABAMA

HUNTER EDUCATION

AND

HUNTING INCIDENT STATISTICS

2022-2023



COMPILED BY THE

ALABAMA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE OF ALABAMA
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INTRODUCTION

This annual report contains statistics and information from hunting incident reports submitted to the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries from September 1, 2022 – August 30, 2023.

For the purpose of this report, a hunting incident is any event outside of a building that results in injury or death to any person as a result of a person's actions while hunting game which is attributable directly or indirectly to a firearm or bow while in game habitat.

The purpose of this report is to provide statistical information on the similarities, causes, and frequency of hunting incidents in Alabama. This information is compiled and analyzed to direct activities and education designed to reduce Alabama's hunting accident rate. While hunting accidents are very low as compared to other outdoor activities, by publishing this information, the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries hopes the increased awareness will help reduce the hunting accident rate even further.

Compared to other sports, hunting is not only safe, but getting safer. According to *American Sports Data* and *the National Shooting Sports Foundation*, hunting ranks lower than basketball, football, tennis, cheerleading, bicycling, golf, and even bowling in the total number of injuries per 100 participants. We can thank hunters for demanding a high standard from each other. We can also thank hunter safety education instructors, many whom volunteer to serve, for passing on safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved actions by shooters and hunters and for passing on the heritage of hunting. It is because of their efforts that hunting has such a high safety record.

ALABAMA HUNTING INCIDENT SUMMARY 2022-2023

- 19 TOTAL INCIDENTS
- 4 NON-FATAL FIREARMS INCIDENTS
 - 3 - Two Party Accident
(1- victim covered by shooter swinging on game, 1 - careless handling, 1 – victim out of sight of shooter)
 - 1 - Self-Inflicted
- 0 FATAL FIREARMS INCIDENT
- 15 NON-FATAL TREESTAND INCIDENTS
- 0 FATAL TREESTAND INCIDENTS

ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION AND HUNTING INCIDENT STATISTICS

Hunting Season	Fatal Incidents			Non-fatal Incidents			Incident Rate (Incidents/100,000 licenses sold)					
	Firearms	Treestand	Total	Firearms	Treestand	Total	Total Accidents	# Licenses Sold	Students Trained	Firearms	Treestand	Total
1973-74	19	0	19	25	2	27	46	332,391	1,193	13.2	0.6	13.8
1974-75	5	0	5	20	0	20	25	347,999	2,686	7.2	0.0	7.2
1975-76	5	0	5	25	0	25	30	332,112	2,478	9.0	0.0	9.0
1976-77	11	0	11	25	0	25	36	336,991	3,217	10.7	0.0	10.7
1977-78	9	0	9	22	1	23	32	342,831	2,515	9.0	0.3	9.3
1978-79	6	1	7	17	4	21	28	353,779	1,622	6.5	1.4	7.9
1979-80	7	0	7	27	3	30	37	308,350	3,092	11.0	1.0	12.0
1980-81	7	1	8	35	1	36	44	322,100	3,203	13.0	0.7	13.7
1981-82	9	0	9	34	5	39	48	312,939	6,251	13.7	1.6	15.3
1982-83	6	2	8	33	3	36	44	299,272	6,124	13.0	1.7	14.7
1983-84	8	0	8	39	6	45	53	296,042	4,689	15.9	2.0	17.9
1984-85	15	0	15	37	4	41	56	294,027	4,098	17.7	1.3	19.0
1985-86	11	0	11	31	6	37	48	290,951	4,156	14.4	2.1	16.5
1986-87	6	0	6	34	8	42	48	303,538	6,403	13.2	2.6	15.8
1987-88	3	0	3	34	6	40	43	294,980	5,701	12.5	2.1	14.6
1988-89	6	2	8	37	12	49	57	291,042	5,875	14.8	4.8	19.6
1989-90	3	0	3	36	7	43	46	275,677	5,641	14.2	2.5	16.7
1990-91	3	0	3	29	6	35	38	279,100	5,879	11.5	2.1	13.6
1991-92	5	2	7	24	13	37	44	286,075	6,681	10.1	5.3	15.4
1992-93	7	0	7	31	9	40	47	287,500	11,511	13.2	3.1	16.3
1993-94*	5	1	6	22	8	30	36	282,366	11,814	9.6	3.2	12.8
1994-95	7	1	8	24	24	48	56	279,369	11,114	11.1	8.9	19.0
1995-96	4	1	5	26	10	36	41	285,014	11,810	10.5	3.9	14.4
1996-97	3	2	5	19	18	37	42	272,998	12,241	8.1	7.3	15.4
1997-98	2	1	3	22	14	36	39	273,199	12,232	8.8	5.5	14.3
1998-99	1	2	3	15	7	22	25	270,481	12,452	5.9	3.3	9.2
1999-00	1	3	4	15	19	34	38	272,222	13,815	5.9	8.1	14.0
2000-01	4	0	4	13	14	27	31	271,328	13,294	6.3	5.2	11.5
2001-02	3	0	3	18	17	35	38	272,005	11,275	7.8	6.3	14.1
2002-03	4	0	4	23	7	30	34	257,252	10,949	10.4	2.7	13.1
2003-04	2	1	3	11	9	20	23	267,099	10,654	4.9	3.7	8.8
2004-05	2	3	5	7	9	16	21	259,651	9,683	3.3	4.4	7.7
2005-06	3	0	3	5	9	14	17	256,063	6,478	3.1	3.5	6.6
2006-07	0	1	1	10	9	19	19	260,378	12,071	3.8	3.5	7.3
2007-08	2	0	2	4	12	16	18	256,122	12,959	2.3	4.7	7.0
2008-09	3	0	3	9	10	19	22	258,332	12,519	4.7	3.9	8.6
2009-10	1	1	2	10	13	23	25	260,000	13,883	4.2	5.3	9.5
2010-11	1	5	6	3	13	16	22	255,771	12,507	1.6	7.1	8.7
2011-12	2	0	2	13	9	22	24	249,686	14,521	6.0	3.6	9.6
2012-13	4	1	5	14	15	29	34	256,099	14,843	7.0	6.3	13.3
2013-14	5	1	6	6	13	19	25	248,069	18,962	4.4	5.6	10.1

* Program became mandatory

ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION AND HUNTING INCIDENT STATISTICS

Fatal
Incidents

Non-fatal
Incidents

Incident Rate
(Incidents/100,000 licenses sold)

Hunting Season	Fatal Incidents			Non-fatal Incidents			Total Accidents	# Licenses Sold	Students Trained	Incident Rate (Incidents/100,000 licenses sold)		
	Firearms	Treestand	Total	Firearms	Treestand	Total				Firearms	Treestand	Total
2014-15	3	1	4	11	15	26	30	264,991	16,418	5.3	6.0	11.3
2015-16	1	2	3	5	10	15	18	261,568	15,061	2.3	4.6	6.9
2016-17	1	2	3	6	10	16	19	260,077	13,852	2.7	4.6	7.3
2017-18	2	1	3	4	10	14	17	291,720	13,499	2.1	3.8	5.8
2018-19	3	3	6	2	12	14	20	286,908	13,330	1.7	5.2	6.9
2019-20	1	3	4	8	10	18	22	307,309	11,629	3.0	4.3	7.3
2020-21	1	0	1	6	10	16	17	310,627	13,937	2.2	3.2	5.4
2021-22	0	0	0	10	5	15	15	303,397	12,967	3.3	1.6	5.0
2022-23	0	0	0	4	15	19	19					

**Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
2022-2023 Non-fatal Firearms Incident**

Date of Accident	County	Age of Victim	Age of Shooter	Was shooter intoxicated?	Game	Type Gear	Muzzle to wound distance (yds.)	Self-inflicted or two-party	Victim wearing hunter orange in two party accidents	Was shooter a hunter education graduate?	Cause of accident	Date official report signed by investigating officer
1 9/7/2022	Lowndes	54	9	No	Dove	Shotgun	50	Other	NR	No	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	9/25/2022
2 12/12/2022	Elmore	27			Deer	Rifle	Unknow		Yes		Careless handling of firearm	1/4/2023
3 12/15/2022	Randolph	39			Deer	Shotgun	inches	Self	No		Careless handling of firearm	12/29/2022
4 1/14/2023	Escambia	29	24	No	Deer	Shotgun	45	Other	Yes	Yes	Victim out of sight of shooter	1/19/2023

Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
2022-2023 Treestand Incidents

Fatal or Non-fatal	County	Date of Accident	Victim's Age	Game	Type of Weapon	Type of Treestand	Was victim wearing a safety belt and secured to tree?	Stand Height (ft)	Climbing, Sitting, Coming Down	Cause of Accident	Date official report signed by investigating officer
1 Non-Fatal	Marion	10/7/2022	25		NA	Ladder	NA	0	NA	Stand fell on victim	10/21/2022
2 Non-Fatal	Fayette	10/7/2022	39		NA	Ladder	No	12		Improper assembly of ladder stand	10/14/2022
3 Non-Fatal	Franklin	10/15/2022	46	Deer	Bow	Ladder	No	15	Climbing	Fell while moving stand	10/24/2022
4 Non-Fatal	Etowah	10/23/2022	25	Deer	Bow	Climbing	No	30	Climbing	Fell while getting climbing	10/24/2022
5 Non-Fatal	Winston	11/5/2022	48	Deer	Rifle	Climbing	No	10	Climbing	Fell while descending	12/5/2022
6 Non-Fatal	Montgomery	11/13/2022	26	Deer	Bow	Hang-On	No	25	Climbing	Overloaded the weight on stand	11/13/2022
7 Non-Fatal	Jackson	11/8/2022	58	Deer	NA	Ladder	No	20	Climbing	Improper assembly of ladder stand to tree	7/7/2023
8 Non-Fatal	Franklin	11/22/2022	71	Deer	Unknown	Ladder	No	14	Climbing	Stand not secured properly to tree	11/29/2022
9 Non-Fatal	St. Clair	11/26/2022	37	Deer	Rifle	Lock on	No	15	Climbing	Fell while climbing into position	11/28/2022
10 Non-Fatal	Etowah	12/15/2022	39	Deer	NA	Climber	No	25	Climbing	Fell while repositioning	12/28/2022
11 Non-Fatal	Hale	12/23/2022	76	Deer		Permanent	No	15	Climbing	Fell while climbing into shooting house	12/25/2022
12 Non-Fatal	Barbour	1/7/2023	16	Deer	Rifle	Climber	No	9	Climbing	Fell while standing up to shoot	1/10/2023
13 Non-Fatal	Marion	1/28/2023	56	Deer	Crossbow	Hang-On	No	20	Climbing	Fell while climbing into stand as straps broke	2/5/2023
14 Non-Fatal	Perry	2/10/2023	68	Deer		Ladder	No	10	Sitting	Fell while settling into stand	2/11/2023
15 Non-Fatal	Jefferson	2/6/2023	56	Deer	Bow	Saddle	Yes	21	climbing	Fell while adjusting tree saddle	2/27/2020