

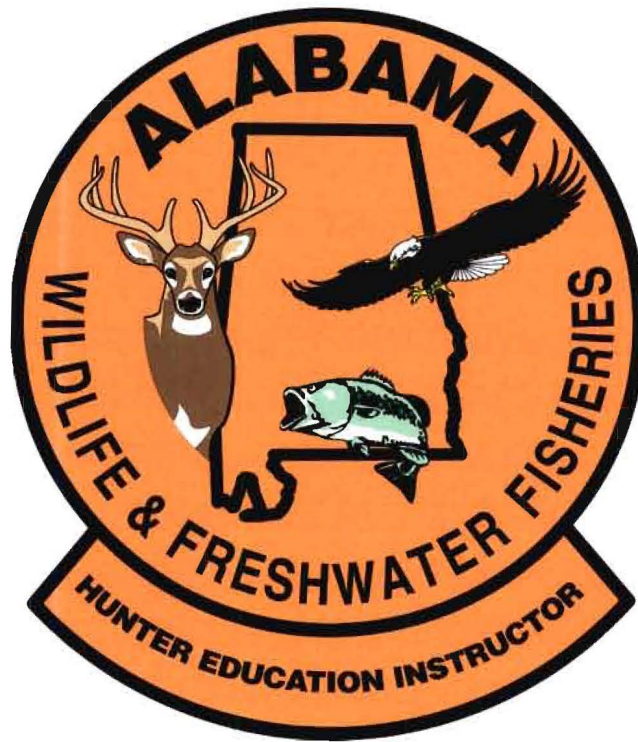
ALABAMA

HUNTER EDUCATION

AND

HUNTING INCIDENT STATISTICS

2016-2017



COMPILED BY THE

ALABAMA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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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, 2016 – August 30, 2017.

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 2016-2017

- 20 TOTAL INCIDENTS
- 6 NON-FATAL FIREARMS INCIDENTS
 - 4 TWO-PARTY (1- Careless handling of firearm, 1-victim covered by shooter swinging on game, 1- ricochet off the water and 1- under investigation)
 - 2 SELF-INFLICTED (1- Careless Handling of firearm, 1-Pulling loaded firearm up into treestand)
- 1 FATAL FIREARMS INCIDENTS
 - SELF-INFLICTED (trigger caught on object)
- 11 NON-FATAL TREESTAND INCIDENTS
- 2 FATAL TREESTAND INCIDENTS

**Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
2016-2017 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	Lauderdale	9/23/2016	53	N/A		Hang-On	No	20	Climbing	Fell while climbing	9/28/2016
2	Non-Fatal	Dale	10/28/2016	0			Hang-on	No	16		Fell while installing stand	
3	Non-Fatal	Russell	12/4/2016	53	Deer		Permanent	No	5	Climbing	Fell while climbing out of stand	12/5/2016
4	Fatal	Pickens	11/21/2016	84	Deer		Permanent	No	6	Climbing	Fell while climbing out of stand	12/12/2016
5	Non-Fatal	Lamar	12/30/2016	49	Deer	Rifle	Ladder	No	19	Sitting	Strap broke on ladder stand	1/20/2017
6	Non-Fatal	Barbour	1/7/2017	50	Deer		Permanent	No	20	Climbing	Step broke on permanent stand	1/16/2017
7	Fatal	Montgomery	1/13/2017	52	Deer	Rifle	Permanent - Ladder	No	10	Climbing	Lost footing	1/24/2017
8	Non-Fatal	Henry	1/21/2017	57	Deer	Rifle	Permanent	No	12	Climbing	Fell while climbing into stand	1/23/2017
9	Non-Fatal	Franklin	2/2/2017	44	Deer	Bow	Climber	No	17	Climbing	Fell while climbing out of stand	2/3/2017
10	Non-Fatal	St. Clair	2/3/2017	29	Deer		Climber	No	30	Climbing	Pin came out of climbing stand	4/3/2017
11	Non-Fatal	Autauga	1/14/2017	56	Deer		Hang-on	No	25	Climbing	Lost footing while climbing out of stand	2/5/2017
12	Non-Fatal	Conecuh	2/9/2017	56	Deer		Tri-pod	No	15	Sitting	Fell while repositioning	2/12/2017
13	Non-Fatal	Russell	6/10/2017	73	N/A		Hang-on	No	20	Climbing	Fell while retrieving deer stand	6/10/2017

**Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
2016-2017 Non-fatal Firearms Incidents**

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 11/18/2016	Green		73	No	Deer	Muzzleloa	12	Self	Yes	Yes	Pulling loaded rifle up to stand muzzle up	12/5/2016
2 11/20/2016	Bullock	22	43		Deer	Rifle	8	Other	Yes	Yes	Muzzle not pointed in safe direction while loa	11/20/2016
3 12/10/2016	Covington		15	No	Deer	Shotgun	inches	Self	Yes	Yes	Careless handling of firearm	2/7/2017
4 1/7/2017	Clay	14			Deer	Rifle	50	Other	No		Under investigation	1/15/2017
5 1/19/2017	Tuscaloosa	18	18	No	Duck	Shotgun	15	Other	NA	Yes	Ricochet off water, low bird	1/22/2017
6 3/31/2017	Lamar	56	27	No	Quail	Shotgun	30	Other	Yes	Yes	Covered by shooter swinging on game	5/24/2017

Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
2016-2017 Fatal Firearms Accidents

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 1/21/2017	Washington		37	No	Deer	Shotgun	0	Self	Yes	Yes	Trigger caught on object	1/21/2017