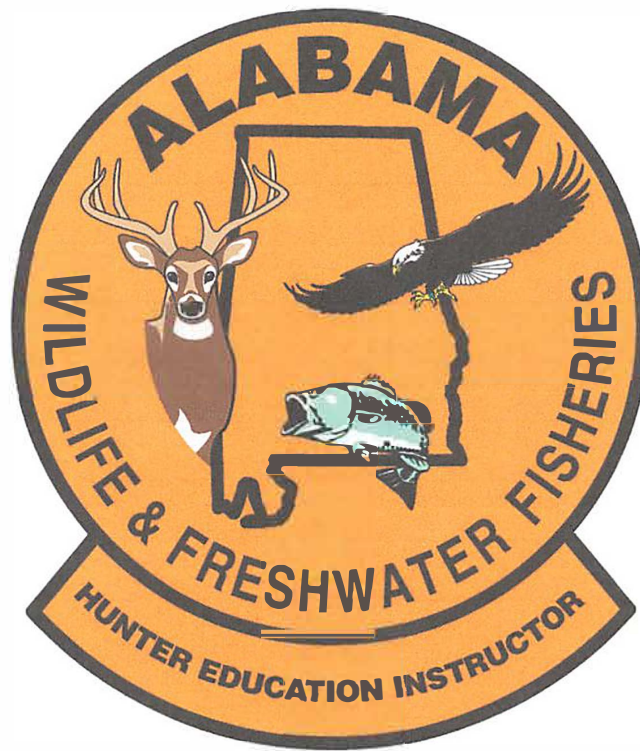


**ALABAMA**  
**HUNTER EDUCATION**  
**AND**  
**HUNTING INCIDENT STATISTICS**  
**2020-2021**



**COMPILED BY THE**  
**ALABAMA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**  
**AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES**  
**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

STATE OF ALABAMA  
KAY IVEY - GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHRIS BLANKENSHIP – COMMISSIONER

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES  
CHARLES F. SYKES - DIRECTOR

LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION  
MICHAEL M. WEATHERS - CHIEF

MARISA FUTRAL  
HUNTER EDUCATION COORDINATOR



# INTRODUCTION

This annual report contains statistics and information from hunting incident reports submitted to the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries from September 1, 2020 – August 30, 2021.

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 2020-2021

- 17 TOTAL INCIDENTS
- 6 NON-FATAL FIREARMS INCIDENTS
  - 4 Two Party Accident  
(2 – victim covered by shooter swinging on game, 1- ricochet, 1 - failure to identify target)  
(One of the accidents had four victims)
  - 2 Self-Inflicted
- 1 FATAL FIREARMS INCIDENT
- 10 NON-FATAL TREESTAND INCIDENTS
- 0 FATAL TREESTAND INCIDENTS

# ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION AND HUNTING INCIDENT STATISTICS

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
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	Firearms	Treestand	Total	Firearms	Treestand	Total	Total Accidents	# Licenses Sold	Students Trained	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					

\* Program became mandatory

**Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries**  
**2020-2021 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	10/16/2020	34	Deer	Bow	Hang-On	No	30	Climbing	Fell while connecting to tree	10/30/2020
2	Non-Fatal	Covington	11/13/2020	20	Deer		Hang-On	No	26	Standing	Fell while inspecting stand at top	12/14/2020
3	Non-Fatal	Autauga	11/21/2020	55	Deer	Rifle	Ladder	No	14	Climbing	Fell while descending Tree	11/21/2020
4	Non-Fatal	Barbour	11/21/2020	40	Deer	Rifle	Ladder	No	12	Sitting	Staps on stand broke	11/30/2020
5	Non-Fatal	Monroe	11/2/2020	47	Deer		Ladder	No	12	Climbing	Fell while removing stand	12/4/2020
6	Non-Fatal	Dale	11/29/2020	74	Deer		Permanent	No	10	Climbing	Fell while descending stand	12/12/2020
7	Non-Fatal	Lee	12/20/2020	52	Deer		Hang-On	No	14	Climbing	Fell while descending stand	12/21/2020
8	Non-Fatal	Etowah	12/27/2020	47	Deer	None	Climber	No	20	Climbing	Fell while taking down stand	1/5/2020
9	Non-Fatal	Escambia	2/9/2021	63	Deer		Ladder	No	14	Climbing	Fell while descending stand	2/10/2021

**Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries  
2020-2021 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
	9/6/2020	Crenshaw	42			Dove	Shotgun	30	Other	NA		Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	12/15/2020
	9/6/2020	Crenshaw	8			Dove	Shotgun	30	Other	NA		Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	12/15/2020
	9/6/2020	Crenshaw	37			Dove	Shotgun	30	Other	NA		Vivtim covered by shooter swinging on game	12/15/2020
1	9/6/2020	Crenshaw	15	27	Unk	Dove	Shotgun	30	Other	NA	Unknown	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	12/15/2020
2	9/6/2020	Tallapoosa	25	21		Dove	Shotgun	75	Other	N/A	Yes	Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	9/16/2020
3	12/10/2020	Cherokee	21			Deer			Self	No			
4	1/17/2021	Jackson	41	42	No	Deer	Rifle	2	Other	Yes	Yes	Ricochet	1/21/2021
5	2/10/2021	Walker		26	No	Deer	Rifle	Inches	Self	Yes	Yes	Unable to determine	2/21/2021
6	4/19/2021	Franklin	28	58	No	Turkey	Shotgun	40	Other	NA	No	Failure to identify target	4/22/2021



**Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries**  
**2020-2021 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	1/18/2021	Fayette	69	67	Unk	Deer	Rifle	111 feet	Other	No	No	Failure to identify Target	1/18/2021