

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Maryland Hunting Accident Report
FY21**

Age (Shooter or responsible person)	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Under 10 Years				
10 – 19 Years		1		1
20 – 29 Years				2
30 – 39 Years				2
40 – 49 Years				2
50 – 59 Years				2
60+ Years			1	1
Unknown				
TOTALS	0	1	1	10

Causes	Two Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Careless Handling				2
Fall From Tree Stand				8
Victim Mistaken for Game		1		
Victim Covered by Shooter				
Finger on Trigger				
Medical Condition / Other			1	
TOTALS	0	1	1	10

Distance From Shooter To Victim	Two Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
00 – 10 Yards		
11 – 50 Yards		
51 Yards & Over		1
TOTALS	0	1

Victim Wearing Hunter Orange	Two Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Yes		
No		
Not Applicable		
Unknown		1
TOTALS	0	1

Weather and/or Lighting Conditions	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Clear				2
Partly Overcast				3
Pre-Dawn/Dusk		1	1	5
Unknown				
TOTALS	0	1	1	10

Game Species Hunted	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Deer		1	1	10
Squirrel				
Dove				
Geese/Ducks				
Rabbit				
Turkey				
Woodchuck				
TOTALS	0	1	1	10

Hunting Device Used	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Rifle		1	1	2
Muzzleloader				1
Shotgun				1
Bow				6
Unknown				
TOTALS	0	1	1	10

Summary

+ A 42-year-old Cecil County Deer Hunter (Archery Season) was archery hunting from their tree stand when they fell asleep and had fallen approximately 20'. Victim was not wearing a safety harness. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

** Tree Stand Accident

+ A 56-year-old Frederick County Deer Hunter (Archery Season) was climbing up to their tree stand preparing to archery hunt and upon entering the stand to sit down, the seat collapsed, causing them to fall approximately 20'. Victim was not wearing a safety harness. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

** Tree Stand Accident

+ A 60-year-old Garrett County Deer Hunter (Archery Season) was climbing up to their tree stand preparing to archery hunt when they lost their footing, causing them to fall approximately 30'. Victim was not wearing a safety harness. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

** Tree Stand Accident

+ A 25-year old St. Mary's County resident was assisting a St. Mary's County Deer Hunter (Archery Season) in attempting to locate a deer that had been shot during the hunter's activity. During the search for the reduced game, the non-hunting resident was carrying the hunter's loaded crossbow when they stumbled and fell, causing the crossbow to discharge it's bolt into their leg. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

** Self-inflicted Crossbow Wound

+ A 22-year old St. Mary's County Deer Hunter (Archery Season) was utilizing a climbing tree stand preparing to archery hunting and upon reaching the desired location, the stand's support cable had failed, causing them to fall approximately 27'. Victim was wearing a safety harness, however, had not secured it into position prior to the fall. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

** Tree Stand Accident

+ A 39-year old Howard County Deer Hunter (County Managed Hunt w/ a Shotgun) was attempting to descend their tree stand to change locations and upon disconnecting their safety harness, the tree stand's support cable had failed, causing the stand to disconnect and the victim to fall approximately 20'. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

** Tree Stand Accident

+ A 48-year old Washington County Deer Hunter (Firearms Season) was climbing the steps to their box blind when the steps had collapsed, causing the hunter to fall approximately 4'. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries. Victim alleges that the steps were tampered with by an unknown suspect as well as the theft of a trail cam belonging to the victim (Investigation still on-going by NRP).

** Tree Stand Accident

+ A 58-year old Washington County Deer Hunter (Firearms Season) was actively hunting in a wooded area when they were struck in the thigh with a round from another firearm. NRP investigation revealed that the victim was shot in the thigh by a 10-year old relative in their hunting party who had mistaken the victim for game. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries. No charges were filed against the shooter.

** Two-Party Gunshot Wound

+ A 19-year old Frederick County Deer Hunter (Firearms Season) was descending from their climbing tree stand when they lost their footing, causing them to fall approximately 6'. Victim was not wearing a safety harness. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

** Tree Stand Accident

+ A 77-year old Talbot County Deer Hunter (Firearms Season) was actively hunting deer, having just taken a shot at game, when they experienced a medical episode. Hunter was located outside of their ground blind by other members of hunting party shortly thereafter and was found to be deceased. No foul play was suspected in the incident.

** Medical Episode – FATAL

+ A 57-year old Dorchester County Deer Hunter (Muzzleloader Season) was hunting a wooded area and had decided to change hunting locations. While walking through a wooded area with a loaded muzzleloader, it is alleged that the weapon's sling became caught in a tree branch. As the hunter was attempting to free the weapon, it discharged one round into their foot. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

**** Self-Inflicted Muzzleloader Wound**

+ A 33-year old Harford County Deer Hunter (Muzzleloader Season) was preparing to archery hunt by climbing up to their tree stand. During the climb, the hunter's safety strap failed, causing the hunter to fall approximately 20'. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

**** Tree Stand Accident**

This report was prepared by:

MD Hunter Education Program