

2023 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Hunting Incident Report

Type A Hunting Safety Incidents are those that involve the discharge of a hunting device

Field Report #	Injury	Cause	County	Day & Date & Time	Shooter Age & Gender	Victim Age & Gender	Legally Hunting	Hunter Ed.	Hunting Implement	Species Hunted	Description
2023-1-582-001H	Minor	Be sure of target and what is in front and beyond	Knox	Sat 2/11 4:30 AM	M, 26	M, 25	S, Yes V, Yes Same party	S, Yes V, Yes Same party	Rifle, .22	Raccoon	The shooter and the victim were part of the same hunting party. The shooter was standing at the top of a culvert, aiming into a drain tile. Believing the target area was clear, the victim informed the shooter they were out of the line of fire. However, the bullet passed through the field tile and struck the victim in the left bicep.
2023-3-627-001H	Major	Careless Handling, Muzzle Safety	Coles	Fri 2/24 7:30 PM	M, 60	M, 42	S, Yes V, Yes Same party	S, Yes V, Yes Same party	Rifle, .243	Coyote	While loading his firearm before heading into the field, the shooter accidentally discharged it, striking the victim in the leg.
2023-1-641-038HJ	Major	Careless Handling, Muzzle Safety	Rock Island	Mon 10/9 5:00 PM	M, 15	15	Guardian not in proximate control	No	Shotgun, 12 gauge	Deer	The hunter was sitting in a tree stand. While repositioning their firearm, it discharged, firing a slug into their right thigh. The slug traveled through the calf and exited through the shin.
2023-5-562-008H	Major	Careless Handling, Unsafe transportation	Marion	Tue 10/24 8:30 PM	M, 35	35	No		Crossbow	Deer	The hunter was moving the crossbow from the back seat to the trunk. The crossbow was being transported uncased and cocked/loaded. While grabbing the crossbow over the top, it discharged, causing lacerations to the victim's fingers.
2023-1-437-009H	Major	Careless Handling	Henry	Mon 11/13 4:10 PM	M, 35	35	Yes	Yes	Crossbow	Deer	The hunter was using a haul line to move the crossbow from the ground into the ladder stand. While lifting the crossbow over the stabilizer bar and into his seated position, it discharged, firing a bolt into his left thigh. The bolt passed completely through the thigh.
2023-1-645-011H	Minor	Careless Handling	Lee	Tue 11/28 2:15 PM	M, 47	47	Yes	No	Crossbow	Deer	The hunter was walking to his hunting area when he stopped to adjust his equipment. After picking up his crossbow and resuming his walk, the crossbow discharged, causing a laceration and fracture to his right thumb.

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Type B Hunting Safety Incidents are those that do not involve the discharge of a hunting device

Field Report #	Injury	Cause	County	Day, Date & Time	Victim Age & Gender	Legally Hunting	Hunter Ed.	Hunting Implement	Species Hunted	Description
2023-1-643-022H	Major	Fall	Bureau	Fri 10/3 12:30 PM	M, 57	Yes	Yes	Crossbow	Deer	The hunter was dismantling an old ladder stand. While removing the ratchet straps from the top section, the straps securing the section he was standing on detached from the tree. The hunter fell approximately 10 feet, landing on his left side. The fall resulted in six broken ribs, a punctured lung, a broken left clavicle, and two pelvic fractures. A Fall Arrest System was not in use at the time.
2023-1-470-003H	Major	Fall	Woodford	Mon 10/6 6:15 AM	F, 17	Yes	Yes	Bow, Compound	Deer	The hunter was entering a stand when a ratchet strap failed, causing the stand to collapse. The hunter fell 20 feet, resulting in two pelvic fractures and a fractured tailbone. A Fall Arrest System was not in use at the time.
2023-3-578-018HJ	Major	Fall	Crawford	Tue 10/7 9:30 AM	M, 12	Yes	Yes	Bow, Compound	Deer	The hunter fell approximately 15 feet from a ladder stand when a strap broke. The fall resulted in a buckle fracture to the radius and ulna in the hunter's right wrist. A Fall Arrest System was not in use at the time.
2023-3-578-018H	Major	Fall	Crawford	Tue 10/7 9:30 AM	M, 47	Yes	Yes	Bow, Compound	Deer	The hunter fell approximately 15 feet from a ladder stand when a strap broke. The fall resulted in a fractured orbital bone and a concussion. A Fall Arrest System was not in use at the time.

2023-5-480-015H	Major	Fall	Jefferson	Wed 11/8 5:00 AM	M, 53	Yes	NY resident, no IL cert.	Crossbow	Deer	The hunter was attempting to get into his tree stand when he placed his foot on a tree branch for a foothold. The branch broke, causing the hunter to fall. Both legs were fractured in the fall. A Fall Arrest System was not in use at the time.
2023-5-594-016H		Fall	Marion	Thu 11/9 5:15 AM	M, 69	Yes	No	Bow	Deer	The hunter was attempting to get into his tree stand when he slipped on the ladder and fell approximately 15 feet. A Fall Arrest System was not in use at the time.
2023-4-579-011H	Major	Fall	Cass	Fri 11/10 9:30 AM	M, 41	Yes	Yes	Bow	Deer	The hunter was attempting to climb out of his tree stand when he placed all his weight on the top rung of the ladder. A strap securing the ladder to the tree broke, causing the hunter to fall approximately 18 to 20 feet. The fall resulted in a broken ankle. The hunter stated that he had been using a Fall Arrest System while hunting but removed it to climb out of the tree.
2023-5-622-016H	Major	Fall	Effingham	Sat 11/11 8:00 AM	M, 40	Licensed, trespassing	Yes	Bow, Compound	Deer	The hunter fell approximately 30 feet while using a climber tree stand. The teeth of the stand stopped "biting," and the bottom of the climber gave out, causing the fall. The hunter sustained a broken left humerus, a fractured wrist, a broken right hip, three pelvic fractures, and six spinal fractures. A Fall Arrest System was not in use at the time.
2023-5-522-013H	Major	Fall	Saline	Sat 11/11 3:30 PM	M, 39	Yes	Yes	Bow, Compound	Deer	The hunter fell approximately 25 feet from a fixed hang-on tree stand when the cables connecting the platform to the vertical supports broke. A Fall Arrest System was not in use at the time.
2023-3-627-011H	Major	Fall	Douglas	Sun 11/12 3:45 PM	M, 61	Yes	No	Crossbow	Deer	The hunter experienced a back spasm and passed out, falling approximately 20 feet from a ladder stand. A Fall Arrest System was not in use at the time.
2023-5-528-022H	Minor	Cut	Fayette	Thu 11/16 6:09 PM	M, 28	No	No	Bow	Deer	The hunter was field dressing a harvested deer when he lacerated his hand, requiring stitches.

2023-4-390-012H	Major	Burn	Randolph	Sat 11/18 8:00 AM	M, 17	Yes	Yes	Shotgun, 12 gauge	Deer	The hunter was sitting in a 15-foot tree stand when camouflage netting and the hunter's clothes caught fire from a small propane heater. The hunter jumped to safety to put out the fire, which resulted in second- and third-degree burns on his legs.
2023-3-510-010H	Major	Fall	Macon	Sat 11/25 4:45 PM	M, 43	Yes	Yes	Crossbow	Deer	The hunter was exiting his tree stand and grabbed a branch he typically used for support when climbing onto the climbing sticks. The branch broke, causing the hunter to fall approximately 25 feet. The fall resulted in several fractured vertebrae, a shattered right heel, and a fractured sternum. The hunter stated that he had been using a Fall Arrest System while hunting but removed it to climb out of the tree.

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Type C Hunting Safety Incidents are those that are medical issues while in the field or injuries suffered while in the field, but not from the act of hunting

Field Report #	Injury	Cause	County	Day & Date & Time	Shooter Age & Gender	Victim Age & Gender	Legally Hunting	Hunter Ed.	Hunting Implement	Species Hunted	Description
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