

2024 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Hunting Incident Report

2024 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 |
|------------------|--------|--|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| 2024-NE-624-001H | Minor | Careless handling, Be aware of your target - What is beyond and in front. | McHenry | Sun 2/18 12:30pm | 57, M | 60, M | Yes | Yes | Shotgun | Pheasant/Quail | A group was upland bird hunting. One hunter was using an ATV due to mobility issues. The ATV was following the bird dog. The dog went on point. The on foot hunters followed the dog. 60 yards from the ATV the dog flushed a bird; the hunter shot at the bird striking the hunter using the ATV. The victim sustained superficial wounds to his face and right hand. |
| 2024-NW-612-006H | Major | Careless Handling | Whiteside | Fri 3/15 1:00pm | 64, M | 29, M | Yes | No | .12 gauge Shotgun | Pheasant | Two hunters were upland bird hunting with bird dogs. The hunters harvested a bird. The dogs were "fighting" over the bird. The dog handler put his gun down to work the bird from the dogs. The victim was approximately 50 feet away when the shotgun discharged, striking the victim in both legs. The victim applied a tourniquet. He underwent surgery for compartment syndrome. |
| 2024-NW-639-003H | Minor | Stalking, Wearing black, Careless handling, Be aware of your target - What is beyond and in front. | LaSalle | Tue 4/23 7:12am | 38, M | 35, M | No; Unlawful take of species and hunting w/o a license | Yes | .20 gauge Shotgun | Turkey | Hunters were hunting in same party. Shooter was stalking turkey in the rain. He saw movement and fired, striking his hunting partner with a heavy number of pellets in the right arm, and some shot to the left arm, chest, right hand, and face. The victim was wearing a black sweatshirt. |
| 2024-NE-560-015H | Minor | Careless handling, Be aware of your target - What is beyond and in front. | Kankakee | Fri 9/6 2:30pm | 42, M | 27, M | Yes | No | .12 gauge Shotgun | Dove | Two hunters were hunting in same party. Victim was searching for dove in a standing corn field. The shooter saw a dove and tried to harvest the dove. The victim was "peppered" in the back of the head, arm, and back. |
| 2024-CE-606-043H | Major | Careless handling, Be aware of your target - What is beyond and in front. | Pike | Sat 11/16 4:30pm | 45, M | 60, M | Yes | Yes | .12 gauge Shotgun | Quail | A party of 4 hunters were upland bird hunting with dogs. A bird flushed, the shooter swinging 180* targeted the bird. The victim was approximately 50-75 yards behind the group when the shooter discharged the shotgun. The victim was struck with pellets in the chest, right arm, and right leg. |
| 2024-SO-528-020H | Major | Careless handling, Be aware of your target - What is beyond and in front. | Fayette | Sun 12/15 11:19am | 18, M | Same | Yes | Yes | .22 pistol | Coyote | Two hunters were hunting in the same party. At the end of the hunt, while unloading the firearm, the shooter pulled the pistol from his belt when it discharged. The victim was shot in the left buttock area. |

2024 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Hunting Incident Report

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 |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---|
| 2024-NW-648-001H | Major | Fall | De Kalb | Mon 1/8/2024 11:00am | 69, M | Yes | Yes | Crossbow | Deer | Hunter was setting up his climber stand, attempting to climb a tree. He sat back on the seat, and slipped. The top portion of the stand fell to his feet and he fell backwards. When this happened his right leg became trapped causing him to suspend upside down. He used his crossbow to wedge between the ground and his chest, to help with the blood flowing to his head from hanging upside down. Another hunter found him approximately 7 hours after the fall. He suffered from hypothermia, and severe nerve damage to his right leg and foot. Fall Arrest System was not identified as being used. |
| 2024-CE-580-001H | Minor | Fall | Mason | Sat 1/13/2024 2:50 pm | 48, M | Yes | Yes | Compound Bow | Deer | Hunter was using a ladder stand set 15-20' in the air. He was transitioning from the ladder to the base of the stand when his foot slipped off of the ladder. He and his bow fell. Hunter climbed back into stand, before realizing his bow was broke and then returning to camp. Upon returning to camp he passed out. Hunter refused ambulance transport. After he being taken to the hospital by his hunting party, it was revealed that he broke his 2nd-4th metatarsals on his left foot. Fall Arrest System was not being used. |
| 2024-SO-498-011H | Major | Fall | Clinton | Tues 10/8/2024 5:00 pm | 24, M | Yes | Yes | Crossbow | Deer | Hunter was using a ladder stand set 11'-15' in the air. He needed to adjust his safety harness, stepped back on the ladder and began to adjust his harness. He fell back and the anchor rope that was tied to the tree and holding his harness, severed. He fell approximately 12' to the ground. He suffered a spinal fracture of the L1 and L2 vertebrae. Fall Arrest System was being used but was being adjusted by the hunter when he fell. |
| 2024-SO-660-005H | Major | Fall | Saline | Thu 10/17/2024 12:00 pm | 38, M | Yes | Yes | Compound Bow | Deer | Hunter was using a ladder fixed hang-on stand set 20-25' in the air. The cables appear to be old and broke where they attach to the stand. He fell from the stand and suffered injuries to his legs, ankles, neck, and back. Fall Arrest System was not being used. |
| 2024-SO-640-043H | Minor | Fall | Massac | Fri 10/25/2024 5:00 pm | 58, M | Yes | Yes | Compound Bow | Deer | Hunter was using a climber stand set 15-20' in the air. He decided to stand after sitting for a while. The platform of the stand gave way. He had a rope tethered around his chest which prevented him from fall. He managed to hug the tree, cut the rope, and descend to the platform. The hunter suffered a broken rib. Fall Arrest System was not being used. |
| 2024-SO-622-008H | Major | Fall | Jasper | Tues 10/29/2024 8:00 pm | 14, M | Yes | Yes | Setting Stands | Deer | Hunters were setting up tree stands for deer season. Hunter was using a fixed hang-on stand set 15'-20' in the air. Hunter was standing in the tree stand when he fell straight to the ground. The victim has no memory of the fall. He sustained 3 fractured vertebrae, a bruised/swollen sacrum, and a concussion. Fall Arrest System was not being used. |
| 2024-SO-528-015H | Major | Fall | Fayette | Thu 10/31/2024 4:11 pm | 28, M | Yes | Yes | Bow | Deer | Hunter was climbing up to hang his treestand. A strap on his climbing sticks broke. He fell from the climbing sticks suffering a large laceration to the back of his thigh, from a lower climbing stick. The hunter applied a tourniquet. Fall Arrest System was not being used. |
| 2024-NW-641-040H | Major | Fall | Rock Island | Sat 11/2/2024 3:18 pm | 18, M | No - trespassing | Yes - online | Compound Bow | Deer | Hunter was using a ladder stand set 15-20' in the air. The hunter was climbing the ladder when his boot slipped and he fell backwards, landing on his compound bow. He suffered two burst fractures compressing his spinal cord, and a hairline skull fracture. A Fall Arrest System was not used. |
| 2024-SO-625-022HX | Fatal | Fall | Wayne | Sun 11/10/2024 4:14 pm | 70, M | Yes | Yes | Crossbow | Deer | Hunter was using a ladder stand set 15' in the air. The hunter fell out of his stand. He suffered a broken pelvis, broken ribs, and a punctured lung before succumbing to his injuries. Fall Arrest System was not being used. |
| 2024-NE-569-019H | Major | Fall | Will | Mon 11/11/2024 4:45 am | 45, M | Yes | Yes | Compound Bow | Deer | Hunter was using a fixed hang-on stand set 11'-15' in the air. He was hanging climbing ladders for his stand. While leaning back on his safety harness, he felt the harness give-way, falling approximately 10' to the ground. The hunter landed on a broken tree trunk. He suffered a compression fracture to T12 and T5 vertebrae. Fall Arrest System was being used; the hunter said the harness' rope must have broken or come undone causing the fall. |

2024 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Hunting Incident Report

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

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|------|----------|-------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|--------------|------|--|
| 2024-SO-623-007H | Minor | Fall | Randolph | Mon 11/11/2024 10:40 am | 37, M | Yes | Yes | Compound Bow | Deer | Hunter was using a ladder stand set 15'-20' in the air. He arrived at the hunting location and decided to move the ladder stand to a new location. While clearing a lane for shooting he felt the stand give way, a strap broke, and fell approximately 20' to the ground. The hunter landed on his feet and then rolled to the bottom of a hill and called 911. No critical injuries sustained from the fall. Fall Arrest System was not being used. |
| 2024-SO-633-010H | Minor | Fall | Marion | Thu 11/14/2024 5:15 pm | 31, M | Yes | Yes | Compound Bow | Deer | Hunter was using a fixed hang-on stand set 20'-25' in the air. He unattached his safety harness from the tree and was stepping from the platform of his hang on stand to the climbing sticks. He was olding on to a branch, to support the move, and it broke. He fell approximatley 22' to the ground. The hunter was airlifted after 911 was contacted. He sustained a broken nose and broken left wrist. Fall Arrest System was being used but was not on the hunter at the time of fall. |
| 2024-CE-510-010H | Major | Fall | Piatt | Sat 11/16/2024 6:00 am | 71, M | Yes | Yes | Crossbow | Deer | Hunter was using a fixed hang-on stand set 15'-20' in the air. The hunter had just climbed into the stand. He was in the process of attaching safety harness to secure his line, when the bottom of the stand failed. He fell approximately 20' striking the ground feet first. He suffered a fractured tibia, fibula, and L1 vertebrae. Fall Arrest System was used but not properly attached at time of fall. |
| 2024-SO-439-013H | Major | Fall | Lawrence | Mon 11/18/2024 8:30 am | 61, M | Yes | No | UNK | Deer | Hunter was using a fixed hang-on stand set 15'-20' in the air. The previous day he put up climbers on the tree. After hunting from a ground blind he set the hang on sand with a ratchet strap. When the hunter was standing on the platform of the hang on stand, both cables of the supporting cables broke and he fell straight to the ground. The vicitm was unconscious. He sustained 3 fractured vertebrae and a partial collapsed lung. Fall Arrest System was not being used. |
| 2024-SO-658-12H | Major | Fall | Crawford | Sat 11/30/2024 9:45 am | 61, M | Yes | Yes | Compound Bow | Deer | Hunter was using a fixed hang-on stand set 15'-20' in the air. He was climbing out of the stand to move the stand to a new location. He lost his grip on a climbing stick and fell approximately 20' to the ground. The hunter suffered fractures to both tibia's and sahntered his left knee. Fall Arrest System was not being used. |

2024 Hunting Incident Report

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

[illegible]