

2024 HUNTING INCIDENT REPORT

“Good examples of bad judgement”



**California Hunter Education Program
Captain Shawn Olague, Administrator**

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Charlton Bonham, Director**

Individual Incident Details 2024 Hunting Season

INJURY TYPE	Fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	1/24	TIME	0711 HRS
COUNTY	Yolo	LOCATION	Dunnigan
LAND OWNERSHIP	Private	ANIMAL HUNTED	Waterfowl
SHOOTER SEX	Male	SHOOTER AGE	13
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	No	Which Law?	
Firearm or bow?	Firearm	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	0-10 yards
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat	VISIBILITY	Good
COVER TYPE	Open	LIGHTING	Overcast
WEATHER	Cold/Wet/Windy	Blaze Orange Clothing?	No
FACTORS:	Careless Handling of Firearm While Loading		
SUMMARY:	Young hunter accidentally discharged shotgun while loading. Reported trigger was caught in clothing. Victim out of the duck blind was struck by gunshot and succumbed to injuries.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-Fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	1/27	TIME	0730 HRS
COUNTY	Merced	LOCATION	Gustine, North Grasslands
LAND OWNERSHIP	Private	ANIMAL HUNTED	Waterfowl
SHOOTER SEX	Unk	SHOOTER AGE	Unk
HUNTER ED CERT?	Unk	WHICH STATE?	Unk
Was Game law violated?	Unk	Which Law?	Unk
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Unk
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	51-100 yards
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat	VISIBILITY	Good
COVER TYPE	Light	LIGHTING	Sunny
WEATHER	Clear	Blaze Orange Clothing?	No
FACTORS:	Victim Covered by Shooter Swinging on Game		
SUMMARY:	Shooters in duck blind approximately 80 yards away shot at bird that landed on the water. The shot may have skipped/richocheted in the victims direction upon the shot. One pellet broke skin on right cheek and caused bleeding.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-Fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	2/10	TIME	0900 HRS
COUNTY	Solano	LOCATION	Hastings Island Hunting Preserve
LAND OWNERSHIP	Private	ANIMAL HUNTED	Pheasant
SHOOTER SEX	Unk	SHOOTER AGE	Unk
HUNTER ED CERT?	Unk	WHICH STATE?	Unk
Was Game law violated?	Unk	Which Law?	Unk
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Unk
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	51-100
TOPOGRAPHY	flat	VISIBILITY	Good
COVER TYPE	Open	LIGHTING	Sunny
WEATHER	Breezy	Blaze Orange Clothing?	Yes
FACTORS:	Victim Covered By Shooter Swinging on Game, Know target and Beyond		
SUMMARY:	Victim struck on chin with pellet which broke skin and caused bleeding. Victim and witnesses said they saw a party of two hunters working their direction approximately 80-100 yards away. The party shot at a flushed pheasant in their direction and had shot fall out around them. The victim said he yelled to the shooters that he was struck and had words with the shooters before leaving the field.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-Fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	Yes
DATE	2/17	TIME	1450 HRS
COUNTY	Colusa	LOCATION	Princeton
LAND OWNERSHIP	Private	ANIMAL HUNTED	Waterfowl
SHOOTER SEX	Male	SHOOTER AGE	74
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	No	Which Law?	
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	0-10 yards
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat	VISIBILITY	Fair
COVER TYPE	Open	LIGHTING	Overcast
WEATHER	Wet	Blaze Orange Clothing?	No
FACTORS:	Firearm unsecure while loading		
SUMMARY:	Self-inflicted gunshot wound to the upper arm caused by slipping off ATV while loading shotgun.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-Fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	2/23	TIME	1000 HRS
COUNTY	Solano	LOCATION	Hastings Island Hunting Preserve
LAND OWNERSHIP	Private	ANIMAL HUNTED	Pheasant
SHOOTER SEX	Unk	SHOOTER AGE	Unk
HUNTER ED CERT?	Unk	WHICH STATE?	Unk
Was Game law violated?	Yes	Which Law?	FGC 3004(b)-Shoot over Roadway
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	50-100 yards
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat	VISIBILITY	Good
COVER TYPE	Open	LIGHTING	Sunny
WEATHER	Clear	Blaze Orange Clothing?	Yes
FACTORS:	Victim Covered by Shooter While Swinging on Game		
SUMMARY:	Victim was at parked vehicle on roadway when struck by a pellet on the lower leg that produced a welt and minor bleed. Victim said he turned in the direction he heard the shot come from and saw a hunter approximately 70 yards away.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-Fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	3/8	TIME	0845 HRS
COUNTY	Solano	LOCATION	Birds Landing Hunting Preserve
LAND OWNERSHIP	Private	ANIMAL HUNTED	Pheasant
SHOOTER SEX	Male	SHOOTER AGE	65
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	None	Which Law?	N/A
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	50-75 yards
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat	VISIBILITY	Good
COVER TYPE	Light	LIGHTING	Sunny
WEATHER	Clear	Blaze Orange Clothing?	Yes
FACTORS:	Victims Covered by Shooter Swinging on Game		
SUMMARY:	Father/Son victims received pellet strikes to neck, cheek and buttocks causing raised welts and minor bleeding. Shooter checked on victims, apologized and took responsibility. Victim said shooter was in adjacent field and both of them were working the heavier cover of the field border which may have obscured the vision of the shooter. He felt the distance between them was 50-75 yards when they were struck. No medical was needed.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	3/9	TIME	0930 HRS
COUNTY	Solano	LOCATION	Birds Landing Hunting Preserve
LAND OWNERSHIP	Private	ANIMAL HUNTED	Pheasant
SHOOTER SEX	Male	SHOOTER AGE	56
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	No	Which Law?	N/A
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	11-50 yards
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat	VISIBILITY	Good
COVER TYPE	Light	LIGHTING	Overcast
WEATHER	Cool	Blaze Orange Clothing?	Yes
FACTORS:	Victim Covered By Shooter Swinging on Game		
SUMMARY:	Victim was done hunting and at his vehicle in a parking lot of the pheasant club. Shooter jumped a bird about 25 yards from the parking lot and discharged his shotgun striking victim with 12 pellets that fully penetrated his skin. Upon medical treatment, five pellets were not extracted due to medical advice.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	9/1	TIME	0730 HRS
COUNTY	Riverside	LOCATION	Blythe
LAND OWNERSHIP	Private	ANIMAL HUNTED	Dove
SHOOTER SEX	Male	SHOOTER AGE	47
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	No	Which Law?	N/A
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	51-100
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat	VISIBILITY	Good
COVER TYPE	Light	LIGHTING	Sunny
WEATHER	Hot, Clear	Blaze Orange Clothing?	Yes
FACTORS:	Victim Covered By Shooter Swinging on Game		
SUMMARY:	On an opening day of dove season, victim was struck by a single pellet to the upper lip. This pellet caused a bleed and discomfort that caused the victim to yell when he was struck. A shooter who had discharged his shotgun at the same time as another hunter, stepped forward to say he may be the responsible.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	9/1	TIME	1015 HRS
COUNTY	Siskiyou	LOCATION	Montague
LAND OWNERSHIP	Private	ANIMAL HUNTED	Dove
SHOOTER SEX	Male	SHOOTER AGE	39
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	No	Which Law?	N/A
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	51-100 yards
TOPOGRAPHY	Hilly	VISIBILITY	Poor
COVER TYPE	Dense	LIGHTING	Sunny
WEATHER	Hot	Blaze Orange Clothing?	No
FACTORS:	Victim Covered By Shooter Swinging on Game		
SUMMARY:	Victim and Shooter were part of the same party. Victim moved from his location without telling his friend. Cover was dense and visibility poor, upon swinging on game, shot taken caused one pellet strike to break skin on ring finger of left hand.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	10/5	TIME	0815 HRS
COUNTY	Solano	LOCATION	Hastings Island Hunting Preserve
LAND OWNERSHIP	Private	ANIMAL HUNTED	Pheasant
SHOOTER SEX	Male	SHOOTER AGE	79
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	Yes	Which Law?	FGC 3004-Shooting across a Road
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	51-100 yards
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat	VISIBILITY	Good
COVER TYPE	Open	LIGHTING	Sunny
WEATHER	Clear	Blaze Orange Clothing?	Yes
FACTORS:	Victim Covered By Shooter Swinging On Game		
SUMMARY:	Victim was sitting in a vehicle in a parking lot on the pheasant club. Victim was struck in the right arm with one pellet. The strike broke the skin and caused minor bleed. The possible shooters were 55-97 yards away at time of incident.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	10/5	TIME	0845 HRS
COUNTY	Plumas	LOCATION	Lake Almanor
LAND OWNERSHIP	Public	ANIMAL HUNTED	Waterfowl
SHOOTER SEX	Male	SHOOTER AGE	28
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	No	Which Law?	N/A
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Female	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	0-5 feet
TOPOGRAPHY	On Water	VISIBILITY	Clear
COVER TYPE	Open	LIGHTING	Sunny
WEATHER	Sunny	Blaze Orange Clothing?	No
FACTORS:	Careless Handling of Loaded Firearm		
SUMMARY:	Loaded Firearm accidentally discharged upon transfer from hunter into kayak with observer. Observer was shot at close range in the foot. 3/4-inch entrance and exit hole.		

INJURY TYPE	Fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	Yes
DATE	10/12	TIME	0753 HRS
COUNTY	Tulare	LOCATION	Balch Park
LAND OWNERSHIP	Public	ANIMAL HUNTED	Deer/Bear
SHOOTER SEX	Male	SHOOTER AGE	36
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	Yes	Which Law?	FGC 2006
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-rifle	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	0-3 feet
TOPOGRAPHY	Hilly	VISIBILITY	Clear
COVER TYPE	Open	LIGHTING	Sunny
WEATHER	Clear	Blaze Orange Clothing?	Yes
FACTORS:	Loaded Gun in Vehicle, Careless Handling		
SUMMARY:	Witnesses saw a person trying to extract a gun out of the vehicle from the passenger side and heard the gun go off and the person stagger. The victim limped around the vehicle and entered the vehicle and attempted to leave the area. The victim's vehicle ceased movement and the victim was found deceased.		

INJURY TYPE	Fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	10/20	TIME	0720 HRS
COUNTY	Tulare	LOCATION	California Hot Springs
LAND OWNERSHIP	Public	ANIMAL HUNTED	Squirrel
SHOOTER SEX	Female	SHOOTER AGE	55
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	No	Which Law?	N/A
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	0-10 yards
TOPOGRAPHY	Hilly	VISIBILITY	Good
COVER TYPE	Light	LIGHTING	Sunny
WEATHER	Sunny	Blaze Orange Clothing?	No
FACTORS:	Victim Moved Into Line of Fire		
SUMMARY:	Victim and shooter were in same party and were hunting Tree squirrels. They came upon a group of cattle. Cattle were reported to have become aggressive. In an attempt to stop cattle advancing shooter discharged firearm and struck victim at a close range. Victim succumbed to injuries.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	10/26	TIME	0705 HRS
COUNTY	Fresno	LOCATION	Mendota WLA
LAND OWNERSHIP	Public	ANIMAL HUNTED	Waterfowl
SHOOTER SEX	Unk	SHOOTER AGE	Unk
HUNTER ED CERT?	Unk	WHICH STATE?	Unk
Was Game law violated?	No	Which Law?	N/A
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	51-100 yards
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat	VISIBILITY	Good
COVER TYPE	Open	LIGHTING	Dawn
WEATHER	Sunny	Blaze Orange Clothing?	No
FACTORS:	Victim Out of Sight of Shooter		
SUMMARY:	Victim was struck with seven shotgun pellets from an unknown shooter. May have been a member of hunt party. Party claimed otherwise.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	No
DATE	11/9	TIME	0840 HRS
COUNTY	Modoc	LOCATION	Tulelake NWR
LAND OWNERSHIP	Public	ANIMAL HUNTED	Pheasant
SHOOTER SEX	Male	SHOOTER AGE	66
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	No	Which Law?	N/A
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Female	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	75-100 yards
TOPOGRAPHY	Hilly	VISIBILITY	Fair
COVER TYPE	Medium	LIGHTING	Sunny
WEATHER	Clear	Blaze Orange Clothing?	Yes
FACTORS:	Victim Covered by Shooter Swinging on Game		
SUMMARY:	Victim was hit on thigh by single pellet when shot was taken in the distance on game.		

INJURY TYPE	Fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	N/A
DATE	12/14	TIME	0834 HRS
COUNTY	Butte	LOCATION	Thermalito Afterbay
LAND OWNERSHIP	Public	ANIMAL HUNTED	Waterfowl
SHOOTER SEX	N/A	SHOOTER AGE	N/A
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	No	Which Law?	N/A
Firearm or bow?	N/A	SAFETY POSITION	N/A
VICTIM SEX	(2) Males	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	N/A
TOPOGRAPHY	Water	VISIBILITY	Poor
COVER TYPE	Open	LIGHTING	Overcast
WEATHER	Windy/Cold	Blaze Orange Clothing?	N/A
FACTORS:	No Personal Flotation Devices		
SUMMARY:	Two waterfowl hunters were hunting in extreme weather on Thermalito Afterbay. One hunter was attempting to retrieve a bird in a kayak and overturned. The second hunter attempted to rescue other and neither hunter survived. Both drowned and were recovered at a later date.		

INJURY TYPE	Non-fatal	SELF-INFLICTED?	Yes
DATE	12/17	TIME	1000 HRS
COUNTY	Yuba	LOCATION	Spenceville WLA
LAND OWNERSHIP	Public	ANIMAL HUNTED	Quail
SHOOTER SEX	Male	SHOOTER AGE	38
HUNTER ED CERT?	Yes	WHICH STATE?	CA
Was Game law violated?	No	Which Law?	N/A
Firearm or bow?	Firearm-shotgun	SAFETY POSITION	Off
VICTIM SEX	Male	DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE	0-3 feet
TOPOGRAPHY	Hilly	VISIBILITY	Good
COVER TYPE	Open	LIGHTING	Overcast
WEATHER	Cold	Blaze Orange Clothing?	Yes
FACTORS:	Barrel Obstruction		
SUMMARY:	When victim shot at game, he was struck by shrapnel from barrel due to an obstruction. It caused a laceration on his chin and neck.		