

Maryland Natural Resources Police
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Age (Shooter or responsible person)	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Under 10 Years				
10 – 19 Years				3
20 – 29 Years				4
30 – 39 Years				1
40 – 49 Years				4
50 – 59 Years				6
60+ Years				3
Unknown				2
TOTALS				23

Causes	Two Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Careless Handling				4
Fall From Tree Stand				16
Victim Mistaken for Game				
Victim Covered by Shooter				
Finger on Trigger				
TOTALS				20

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

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

Weather and/or Lighting Conditions	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Clear				14
Partly Overcast				
Pre-Dawn/Dusk				6
Unknown				1
TOTALS				21

Game Species Hunted	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Deer				19
Squirrel				
Dove				
Geese/Ducks				
Rabbit				
Turkey				
Unknown				3
TOTALS				22

Hunting Device Used	Two Party		Self-Inflicted / Tree Stand Fall	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Rifle				4
Muzzleloader				2
Shotgun				4
Bow				9
Unknown				
TOTALS				19

Summary

A 56 year old Washington County deer hunter fell approximately 17 to 18 feet from a portable hang-on tree stand combined with a 16 foot ladder stick. Upon investigation it was determined the victim had climbed into the stand, was beginning to fasten his safety strap and fell. The victim advised he felt faint and dizzy. It was determined the portable stand shifted due to the strap being incorrectly fastened from the stand and around the tree, and victim was ejected. The victim received lacerations to the head, fractured right pelvis, and a possible heart condition. A full body safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 63 year old Frederick County deer hunter fell approximately 15 feet from a portable ladder stand. Upon investigation was determined the victim was attempting to shoot at a running deer from his stand while in the act of swinging on running game; he lost his balance and fell. The firearm did not discharge. The victim received shoulder and hip injuries to the right side and a broken left elbow. A full body safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 55 year old Frederick County deer hunter fell approximately 10 feet while climbing a 20 foot extension ladder into his stand. The victim advised he was at 10 feet when he reached out to grab a limb with his left hand. The limb was rotten, broke causing the victim to lose his balance and fall landing on his right hip. The victim dislocated his right hip. A full body safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 70 year old Dorchester County deer hunter fell approximately 25 feet from his home made steel fabricated tree stand. The victim advised he felt faint and dizzy and fell out of the tree. The victim hit several branches as he descended to the ground. The victim's injuries were not reported. A full body safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 16 year old Calvert County deer hunter fell approximately 20 feet from a ladder tree stand. Upon investigation was determined the victim had stood up, slipped and fell. Inspection of the tree stand revealed the stand was home made; the ladder was steel and the platform was wooden. A wooden brace that held the platform in place broke, ejecting the victim. The victim suffered lower back pain. A full body safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 62 year old Harford County landowner was struck by a random shot on their property. Upon investigation it was determined the landowner had been hearing a volley of shots repeatedly behind her home. As she and her husband went outside to investigate, a piece of shot struck her in the left forearm. Law enforcement responded and never found hunters in the area. The landowners advised no one had permission to be there, therefore trespassers were suspected to be the shooters. No suspects were located nor arrests made. The victim suffered a very minor wound to her forearm. Non Fatal.

Two Washington County deer hunters, a 53 year old and 22 year old, fell approximately 13 feet from a two-man ladder stand. Upon investigation it was determined the 22 year old victim was seated in the tree stand and the 53 year old was just getting in the stand when it broke away from the tree ejecting both victims. It was determined the stand was a manufactured ladder stand and the stand was secured at the top of the tree by 2 x 4 and 2 x 6 wooden braces, which gave away and broke. The 22 year old suffered facial bruises and a sprained left ankle and slightly collapsed lungs. The 53 year old suffered facial bruises, a laceration to the left hand and cheek, and severe lower back pain. Both victims had loaded muzzleloaders in the tree when the stand collapsed; the guns did not discharge. Full bodied safety harnesses were not worn. Non Fatal.

A 19 year old Cecil County deer hunter shot himself in the left foot. Upon investigation it was determined the victim was in the act of recovering wounded game; he had stop to rest and placed the muzzle of a .50 cal. Muzzleloader on his left foot, the gun discharged causing a self-inflicted injury of the left foot. The victim stated he did not know how the gun went off. The victim suffered a wound to the left toe. Non Fatal.

A 63 year old Worchester County man fell while attempting to set up a ladder tree stand. Upon investigation it was stated the stand collapsed while the victim was on the stand and his companion was assisting him in setting it up. The investigator does not reveal how the incident occurred, height of the fall or extent of injuries. A full body safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 44 year old Worchester County deer hunter fell approximately 15 feet from a home made tree stand. Upon investigation it was determined the victim had fallen from the tree stand after he had shot at a deer with his crossbow. The stand was an aluminum home made platform and an aluminum extension ladder going up to the stand. There were pieces of wooden debris found at the base of the tree indicating that the stand collapsed due to the wood breaking. The victim suffered injuries to his right ankle, foot and knee and scratches to the same areas. The victim's wife informed the investigator that several years back this same victim had fallen from a tree stand and had pins and plates inserted into the right foot and ankle so he could walk. A full body safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 47 year old Charles County deer hunter fell approximately 20 feet from a home made ladder stand. Upon investigation it was determined the victim had finished hunting for the day, had lowered his bow to the ground by a haul line, and begin to descend down when his foot slipped off of the rung of the ladder stand, causing him to fall off the stand. The victim suffered minor lacerations and bruises. A full body safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 15 year old Queen Anne County deer hunter was ejected and fell 20 feet from his tree stand. Upon investigation it was determined the victim had taken a manufactured 2-piece climbing tree stand and was using the bottom section as a permanent fixture to the tree. The victim turned toward the tree then stepped on the outside edge, causing the stand to

dislodge and collapse, leaving the victim hanging up in the tree held up by his safety harness. The victim summoned help and was freed. Improper use of equipment was the cause of this incident. Non Fatal.

A 20 year old Frederick County deer hunter fell from a tree stand. Upon investigation it was determined the victim was climbing out of his tree stand when his foot slipped causing him to descend. As he fell, his belt caught on the haul line causing an arrow to be pulled out of his quiver; when he landed on the ground the broad head pierced his right ankle to the bone. The investigator does not report the distance of the fall nor type of tree stand. A full body safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 28 year old Allegany County deer hunter fell approximately 9 feet while disconnecting his hang-on tree stand from the tree. Upon investigation it was determined the subject was wearing a safety harness while hunting but removed it when he was descending and to remove the stand. He was standing on a screw-in step removing the portable stand when he lost his balance and fell. The subject suffered a fractured leg. A safety harness was not in use when the incident occurred. Non Fatal.

A 39 year old Frederick County deer hunter shot himself in the foot with a crossbow. Upon investigation it was determined the subject had completed hunting and was at his vehicle putting the equipment in the vehicle, he de-cocked his crossbow and accidentally shot himself in the foot between two toes. Non Fatal.

A 48 year old Queen Anne's Deer hunter fell 25 feet from his ladder tree stand while swinging on game. Upon investigation it was determined the subject was shooting at a deer when the recoil of his firearm caused him to lose his footing and fall out of the stand. The victim advised he had on a safety harness but was not attached to the tree. The victim suffered hip and back injuries. Non Fatal.

A 58 year old Somerset County deer hunter's climbing stand collapsed while ascending a tree. Upon investigation it was determined the stand shifted and ejected the subject off the platform; the subject's foot got caught on the foot stirrup of the lower stand causing the subject to hang upside down. The subject tried to take his hunting knife and cut the stirrup but dropped the knife. He began to yell for help and eventually a nearby hunter came to his aid. The subject was able to grab onto a limb and pull his head and shoulders up slightly during the wait for help. Upon investigation, it was determined the pin that connects the cable strap to the stand and around the tree had come off, causing it to collapse. The subject was not wearing a safety harness. Non Fatal.

A 63 year old Frederick County deer hunter fell 15 feet from a double ladder stand. Upon investigation it was determined the victim was transferring his rifle from one hand to another when he observed a deer. He lost his balance and fell out of the stand. The victim suffered shoulder and hip injuries to the left side and a broken left elbow. A full body safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 45 year old Wicomico County deer hunter fell 16 feet while ascending a tree stand. Upon investigation it was determined the victim had climbed to the top of a 16 foot ladder stick and was climbing onto a portable hang-on stand. When he reached the top of the ladder stick to enter the stand he grabbed onto a limb for support and it broke. As the victim began to fall, he stated that he pushed himself off of the tree to avoid hitting the ladder stick during the fall. The victim suffered a broken bone in his lower leg and a dislocated left ankle. A full body safety harness was not used. Non Fatal.

A 53 year old Harford County deer hunter shot himself in the left leg. Upon investigation it was determined the victim had descended to the ground using a portable climbing tree stand. As he got off the stand at ground level, he laid his loaded shotgun on the stand, took off his harness and relieved himself. He then picked the shotgun up by the stock grip and forearm with the muzzle down to unload the gun when it discharged into this left leg. The gun was loaded with a rifled slug. The victim believes the trigger must have caught on a branch causing the gun to discharge. The firearm was a pump action. Non Fatal.

A 54 year old Garrett County deer hunter sustained a self inflicted rifle wound. Upon investigation it was determined the victim and his partner had separated to hunt deer. The victim advised he shot one time at a deer, went to inspect for a recovery and determined he had missed the deer. The victim advised he placed the gun's butt stock on the ground holding the gun by the barrel when it accidentally discharged 4 times, causing one of the projectiles to strike him in the abdominal cavity. The victim used a cell phone to notify his hunting partner he had shot himself and walked to the vehicle to await EMS. The gun used was a .30.06 semi-automatic. Non Fatal.

A 57 year old Prince Georges County deer hunter shot his 60 year old hunting companion with buckshot during a deer drive. Upon investigation it was determined both hunters, accompanied by 2 other hunters were driving deer in a wooded area when a deer ran between the shooter and victim. The shooter shot at the deer with a .12 gauge shotgun loaded with buckshot striking the victim at 60 yards. The shooter was not wearing daylight fluorescent orange and the victim had on an orange hat under a camouflaged hat and wearing full bodied camouflaged coveralls. The group was charged with natural resources violations including; failure to display daylight fluorescent orange on an outer garment while hunting firearm deer; usage of buckshot; failure to tag deer; and hunting without written permission. The victim suffered one buckshot pellet to the lung, one pellet to the left abdomen, and one pellet in the right knee. Non Fatal.

Property Damage

A home in Dorchester County was struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the home-owner heard shots and found a French door in the back of their home was shattered due a projectile striking the lower left hand pane. The area behind the home is a public hunting area. No suspects were ever located. It was also never determined hunters caused this situation. Damage was \$352.00

This report was prepared by:
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