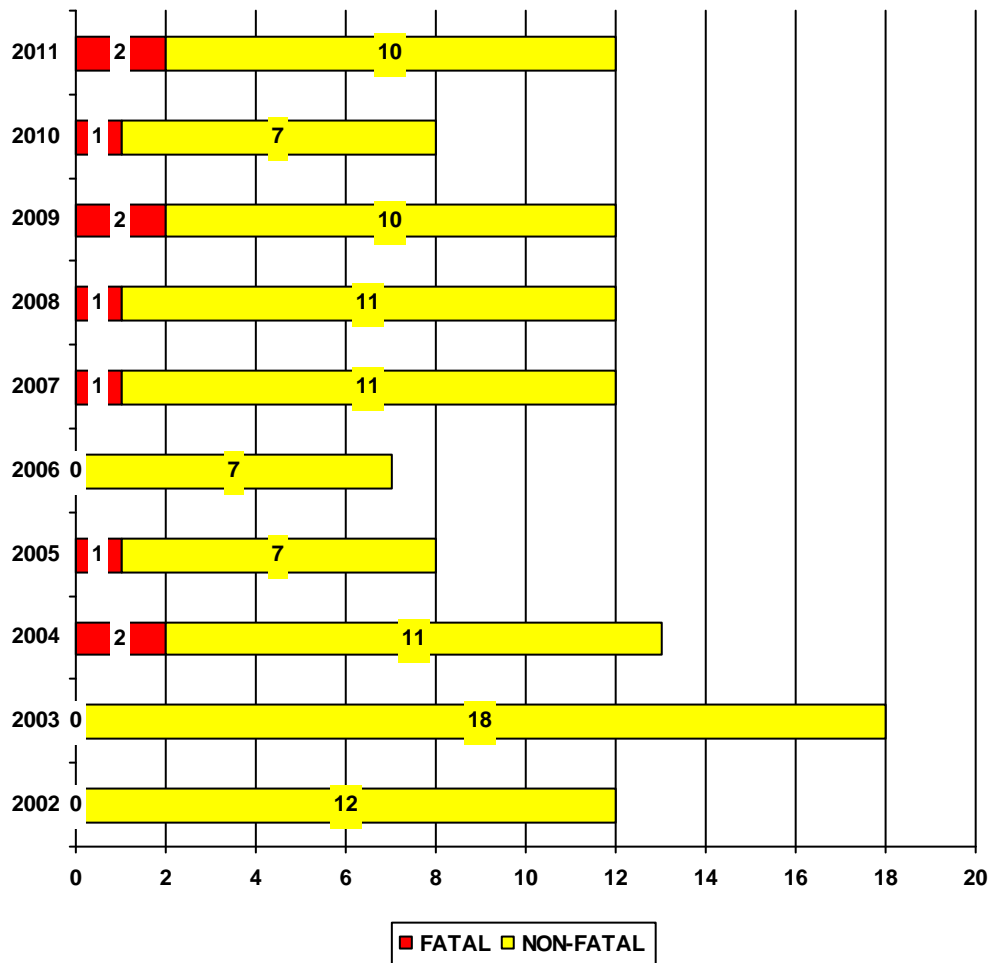


NEBRASKA
2011
HUNTING INCIDENT REPORT



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
INFORMATION and EDUCATION DIVISION
HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS
JANUARY 2012

Ten year history of hunting incidents in Nebraska.



NOTE THAT STARTING IN 2008 THE STATISTICS COLLECTED WERE LIMITED TO INCLUDE ONLY INCIDENTS WHERE A PERSON WAS KILLED OR INJURED WHILE HUNTING -
1. WHEN A HUNTER DISCHARGED A HUNTING IMPLEMENT
or 2. WHEN A HUNTER FELL FROM AN ELEVATED STAND .

2011 NEBRASKA HUNTING INCIDENTS

During 2011, there were 12 incidents resulting in injury or death to persons that involved hunting activities, reported to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Sadly there was 2 fatality incident and 10 non-fatal incidents. This compares to the 7 non-fatal and one fatal incident recorded in 2010.

In 2011 there were eight (8) Class “A” incidents involving the discharge of a firearm by a hunter involved in legal hunting, two of these resulted in a fatality. Three (3) of the incidents were Class “B” and involved illegal hunting activities, In addition there was one (1) class “C” incidents where the hunter was placing a stand in a tree and fell causing the injury.

All incidents involved either the shooter and / or victim NOT following the rules of safety.

How the 2011 Accidents Are Categorized

- Three (3) involved the discharge of a rifle.
- Seven (7) involved the discharge of a shotgun.
- One (1) involved falls from elevated stands.
- One (1) involved an unknown firearm.
- None involved the discharge of a hand gun, bow or crossbow.

Injuries were self inflicted in six (6) incidents, and the injury was caused by someone else in six (6) of the incidents.

Ages of Those Involved – 2011

- One (1) shooter and four (4) victims were 10-19 years old
- One (1) shooter and one (1) victim were 20-29 years old
- ! Two (2) shooters and three (3) victims were age 30 – 39 years old
- No (0) shooters and two (2) victim was 40-49 years old
- ! No shooters and no (0) victims were age 50-59 years old
- ! One (1) shooter and two (2) victim were age 60 or older

Causes of Incidents - 2011

- Victim covered by shooter swinging on game – two (2) incidents
- Failure to identify target – one (1) incident
- Fall from elevated stand – one (1) incident
- Careless or reckless handling of firearm – five (5) incidents
- Victim out of sight of shooter – two (2) incident.
- Unknown cause one (1) incident.

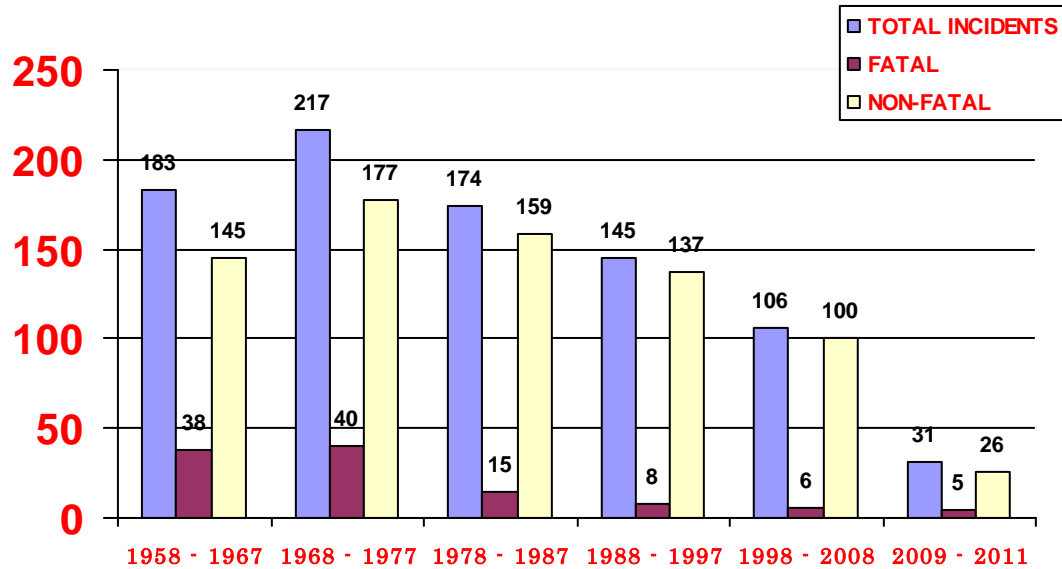
2011 Individual Incident Summary

- January 30 – Perkins County- Pheasant hunting – 39 year old shooter was shooting at a flying pheasant, he saw the 15 year old victim but the shooter thought the victim was far enough away to not matter, he did not think shot from his shotgun would carry that far. Fired at the pheasant and hit the victim. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.**
- March 26 – Cherry County – Skunk hunting – 42 year old Victim was chasing a skunk on an ATV with a loaded .22 rifle lying across his lap. He drove over some rough ground and the rifle discharged into his hip. **Muzzle Control is vital. Always control where the muzzle of your firearm is pointed and never allow it to be pointed at yourself or someone else. UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE.**

- September 3 – Dodge County- Dove hunting – 44 year old victim fishing at a sand pit was struck in the eye by a pellet he believes was fired by some dove hunters. Victim could not see the dove hunters and they could not see the victim. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.**
- October 23 – Dodge County – Duck Hunting – 38 year old victim was hunting Ducks by a stream with a shotgun. Victim fatally shot his self in head at point blank range (it is “suspected” he stumbled and fell going through brush). **Muzzle Control is vital. Always control where the muzzle of your firearm is pointed and never allow it to be pointed at yourself or someone else.**
- October 30 – Dundy County – Pheasant Hunting – 12 year old victim was non-fatally shot by one or two other hunters in the hunting party, a 13 year old and 32 year old hunting companion hitting the victim with 28 shot pellets in the back. Both shooters fired shotguns at a flying pheasant with the victim in the line of fire. Neither the victim or 13 year old shooter were hunting legally, they had not completed hunter education or possessed exemption certificates. **Muzzle Control is vital. Always control where the muzzle of your firearm is pointed and never allow it to be pointed at yourself or someone else. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot. BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.**
- November 1 – Cass County – Deer hunting – 39 year old was placing a tree stand into a tree without using a fall arrest system / full body harness when he fell 15 feet to the ground. **Always use a fall arrest system that has a full body harness as a part of it, attached yourself to the tree before climbing while on the ground and remain attached until back on the ground.**
- November 13 - Thayer County – Deer Hunting – In pre dawn darkness 72 year old shooter fired his rifle at sound and movement fatally hitting his blaze orange clad 69 year old hunting companion who was only 17 steps away walking in tall grass. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER; never shoot at sound or movement.**
- November 15 - Frontier County – Deer Hunting – 37 year old victim wearing blaze orange garments was in a field next to WMA looking for a down deer when he was shot in arm by a unknown person. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER; never shoot at sound or movement.**
- November 23 – Dawson County – Raccoon Hunting – 17 year old was illegally hunting for raccoons. As he was getting into a vehicle with a loaded .22 rifle it non-fatally discharged into him. **Muzzle Control is vital. Always control where the muzzle of your firearm is pointed and never allow it to be pointed at yourself or someone else. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot. UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE.**
- November 24 – Furnas County – Quail Hunting – 73 year old victim was on the other side of a cedar tree when he was shot by 23 year old shooter. A quail flushed and the shooter fire at the bird with the victim in the line of fire. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.**
- November 25 – Scotts Bluff County – Raccoon Hunting – 21 year old was hunting for raccoons. He shot an animal in a tree but it did not fall, as he was moving around the tree in the darkness to shoot again he became tangled in brush, when he pulled free his .22 rifle discharged into his leg. **Muzzle Control is vital. Always control where the muzzle of your firearm is pointed and never allow it to be pointed at yourself or someone else. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot.**
- December 9 – Scotts Bluff County – Duck Hunting – 11 year old victim was hunting duck with his 11 year old hunting companion, illegally hunting with no adult supervision present. As the victim was laying down his loaded 20 gauge shotgun getting ready to climb down a creek bank it discharged, removing part of his hand. **Muzzle Control is vital. Always control where the muzzle of your firearm is pointed and never allow it to be pointed at yourself or someone else. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot. UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE.**

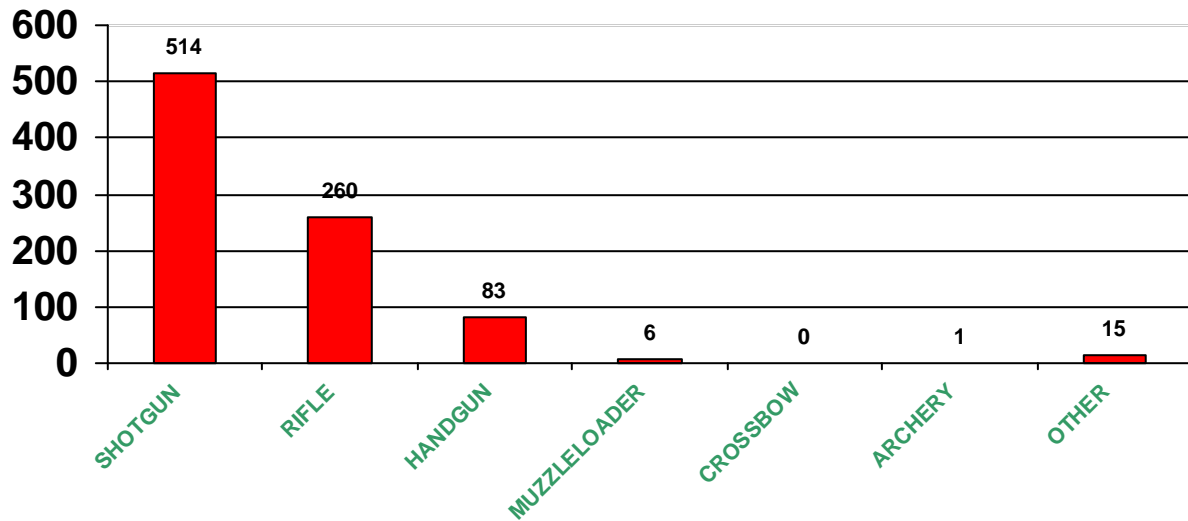
HISTORICAL SUMMARY through 2011 HUNTING INCIDENTS IN NEBRASKA

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

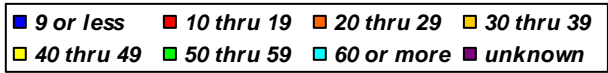
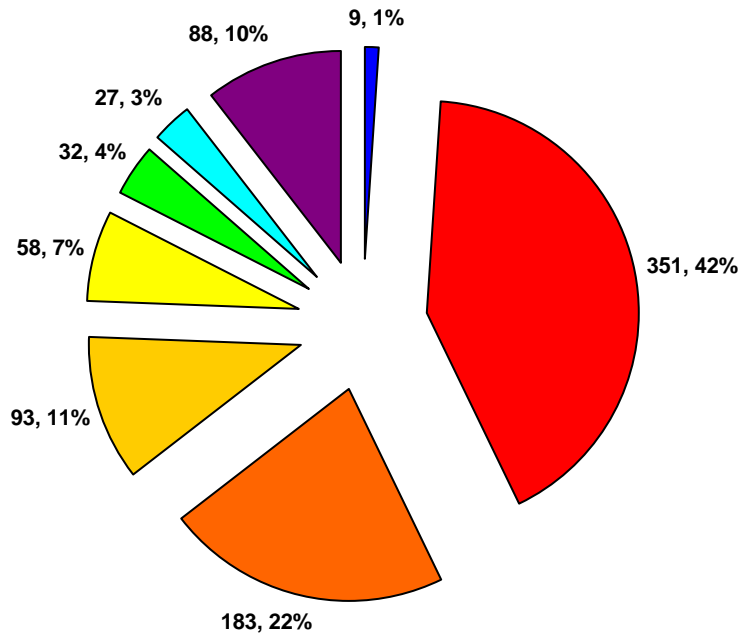


Records have been kept starting in 1958
Start of mandatory hunter education in Nebraska was 1976.

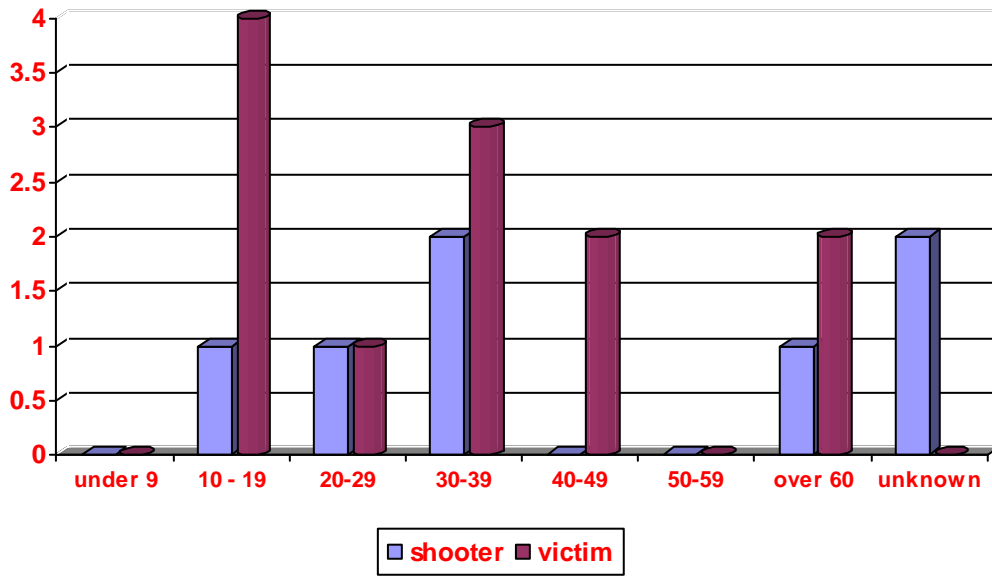
TYPE OF EQUIPMENT BEING USED BY SHOOTER



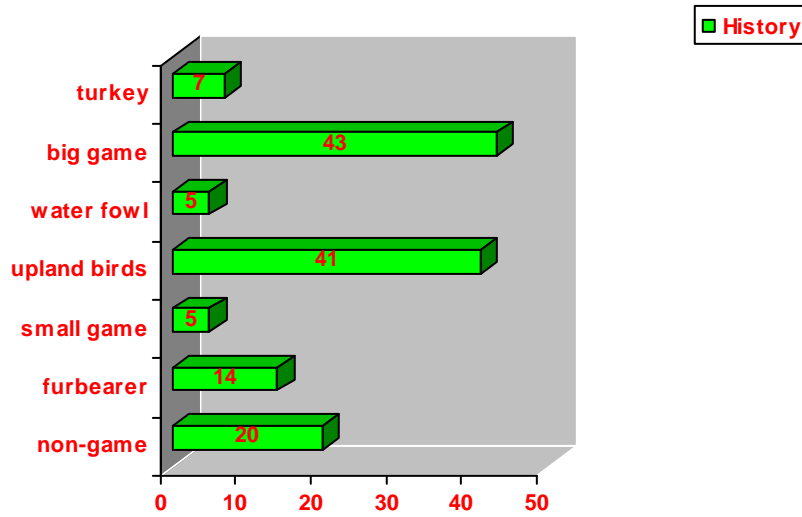
**Age of shooter involved in Accident 1958 to present
(shows number involved and % of total involved).**



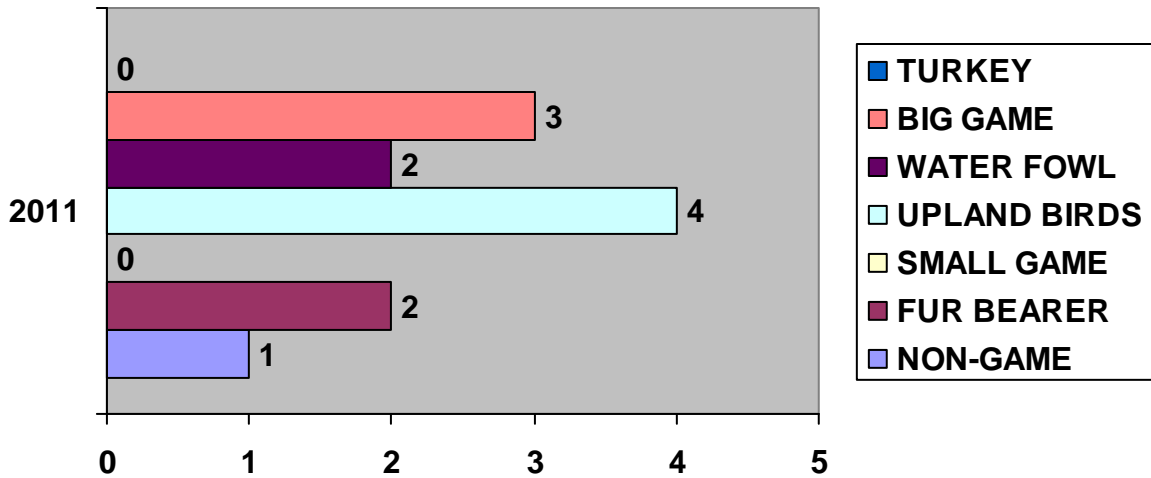
Age of involved 2011



**GAME HUNTED DURING INCIDENT
2000 THROUGH 2011**



2011 ONLY



These charts reflect the type of game animal being hunted during the incident.
Non-game includes – all mammals and birds not listed in the hunting guide.
Fur Bearer includes – all animals listed as fur bearers in the hunting guide.
Small Game includes – Rabbits and Squirrels.
Upland Birds includes – Pheasant, Quail, Dove, Snipe, Woodcock, Partridge, Rail and Grouse.
Water Fowl includes – Ducks and Geese.
Big game includes - Deer, Antelope, Elk and Mountain Sheep.

HUNTING INCIDENT STATISTICS

Compiled by the NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
CALENDAR YEAR 2011

NEBRASKA HUNTING INCIDENTS -	1958 THRU 2011	2011 only
FATAL INJURY	115	2
NON-FATAL INJURY	767	10
SELF INFLICTED	350	6
CAUSED BY SOMEONE ELSE	532	6
TOTAL	882	12

TOP TWENTY MAJOR CAUSES OF ACCIDENT -	1958 thru 2011	In 2011
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	172	2
Other - or unknown cause	127	1
Victim out of sight of shooter	84	2
Shooter stumbled and fell	65	0
Removing or placing a firearm in to vehicle	56	0
Riding in vehicle with loaded firearm	53	0
Victim moved into line of fire	51	0
Trigger caught on an object	40	0
Victim mistaken for game	32	1
Improper crossing of fence	27	0
Defective firearm	27	0
Unloading firearm	26	0
Firearm fell from insecure rest	21	0
Loading firearm	21	0
Horse play with loaded firearm	16	0
Ricochet	14	0
Careless or reckless handling of firearm	14	5
Fall from tree stand	8	1
Using firearm as rest or brace	6	0

TOTAL ACCIDENTS BROKEN DOWN BY AGE	1958 THRU 2011		2010 calendar year only	
	SHOOTER	VICTIM	SHOOTER	VICTIM
UNDER 9 years old	9	10	0	0
10-19 years old	351	352	1	4
20-29 years old	183	181	1	1
30-39 years old	93	125	2	3
40-49 years old	58	90	0	2
50-59 years old	32	55	0	0
OVER 60 years old	27	36	1	2
Age unknown	88	20	2	0

Includes all hunting incidents resulting in injury or death meeting IHEA reporting criteria.

**Hunter Education . . .
A PATH TO FOLLOW!**