



# 2008 HUNTER EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT



Hunter Education  
*Because...*  
*Safe Hunting is*  
**No Accident!**



STATE OF COLORADO Bill Ritter Jr., Governor  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Harris D. Sherman, Executive Director  
COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE Thomas E. Remington, Director  
6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216  
(303) 297-1192

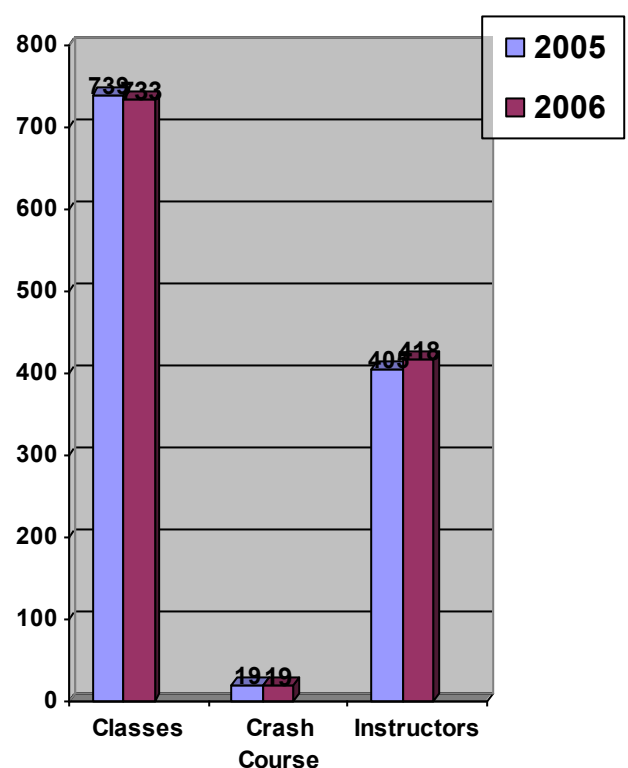
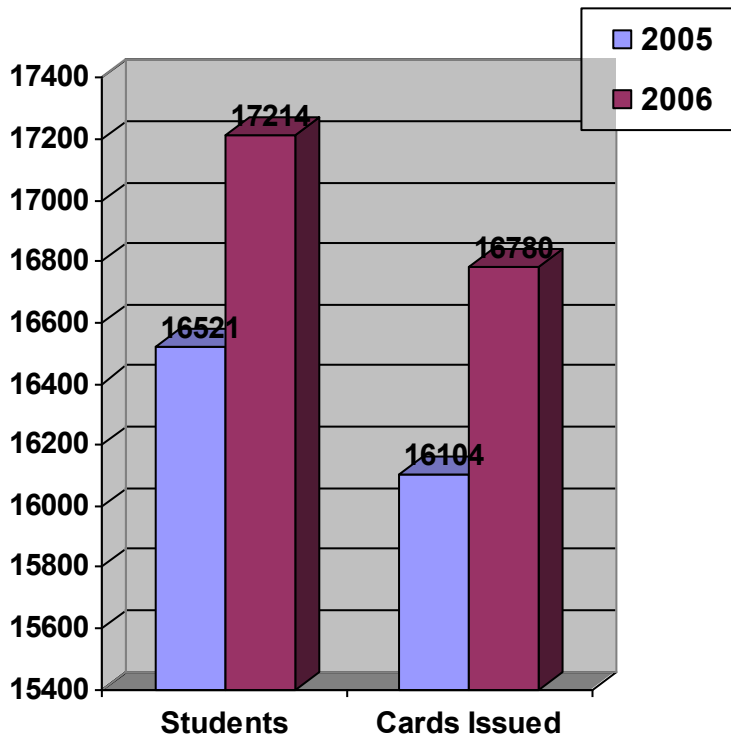
## Summary

2006 was a good year for hunting and hunter education in Colorado. The Hunter Education Program saw an increase in student numbers as compared to 2005, with over 17,000 students registering for hunter education courses and nearly 16,800 receiving hunter education cards. Hunter Education Instructors, whom are volunteers, put on 733 classes including traditional classroom classes, home study based classes and internet based classes. A minimum of 10 contact hours is required in a class and the home study and internet based classes receive 6 hours of credit and require a minimum of 4 contact hours with an instructor to complete the course. The final written exam and required live-fire exercise add another hour or two to each class. The live-fire session requires each student to safely handle a firearm, usually a .22 rifle, and fire 10 rounds of ammunition. This very important portion of the class allows instructors to evaluate each and every student for safety and responsibility.

While "Hunter Safety" has evolved into Hunter Education covering topics from firearms and safety to outdoor survival, as well as hunter responsibility and ethics, firearms and hunter safety are still the main focus.

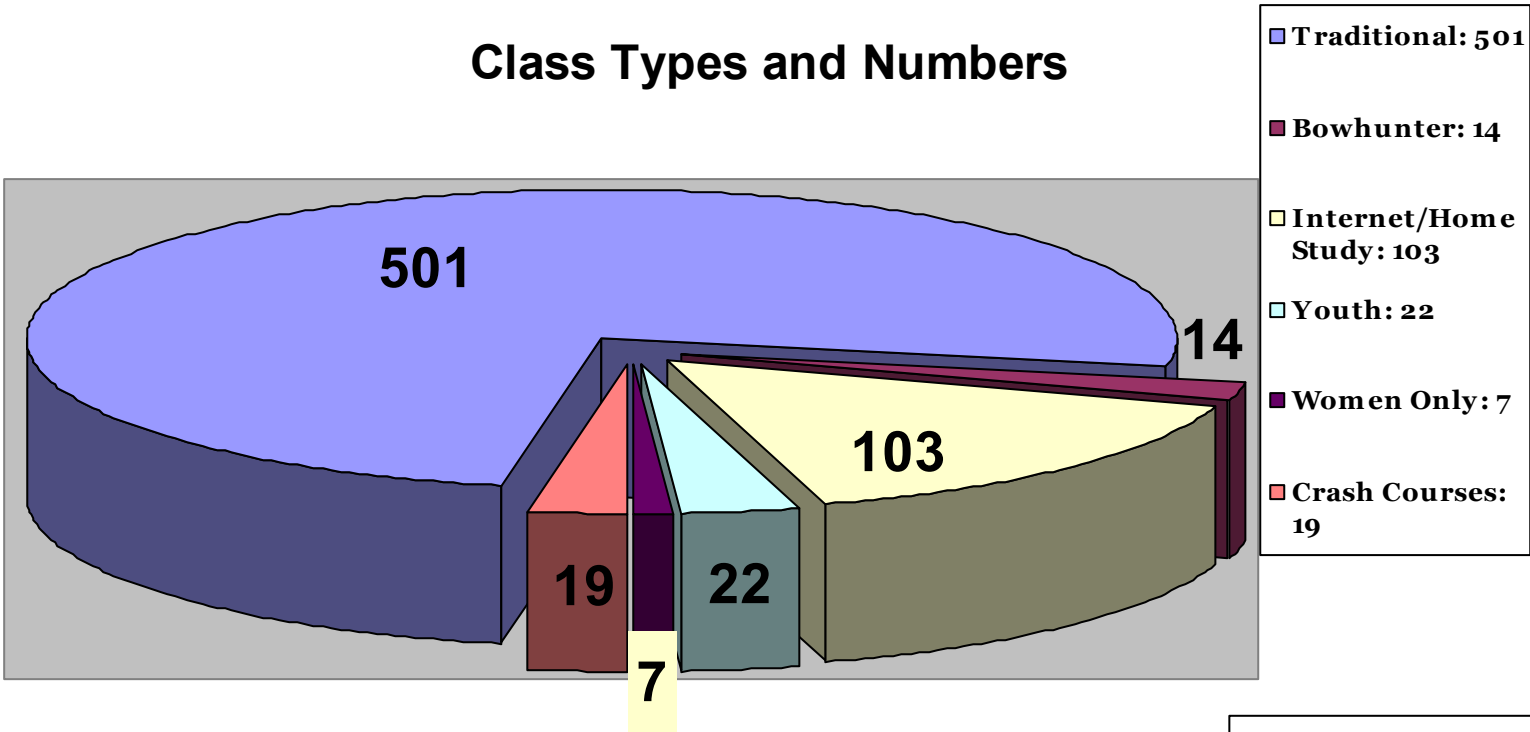
Now for the numbers:

- The number of Hunter Education Instructors increased from 405 to 418
- The number of total classes held dropped from 756 to 733
- Student numbers increased from 16521 to 17214
- The number of new hunter education cards issued increased from 16104 to 16870
- Range reimbursements remained virtually the same: \$6885.50 -vs- \$6833.00
- The percentage of women taking hunter education increased by 1%, with just over 4000 women taking a hunter education class
- "Crash Course" numbers remained the same. A Crash Course is a 1-day course for a temporary hunter education card that is only valid for the current year.
- Overall student numbers increased by 4%

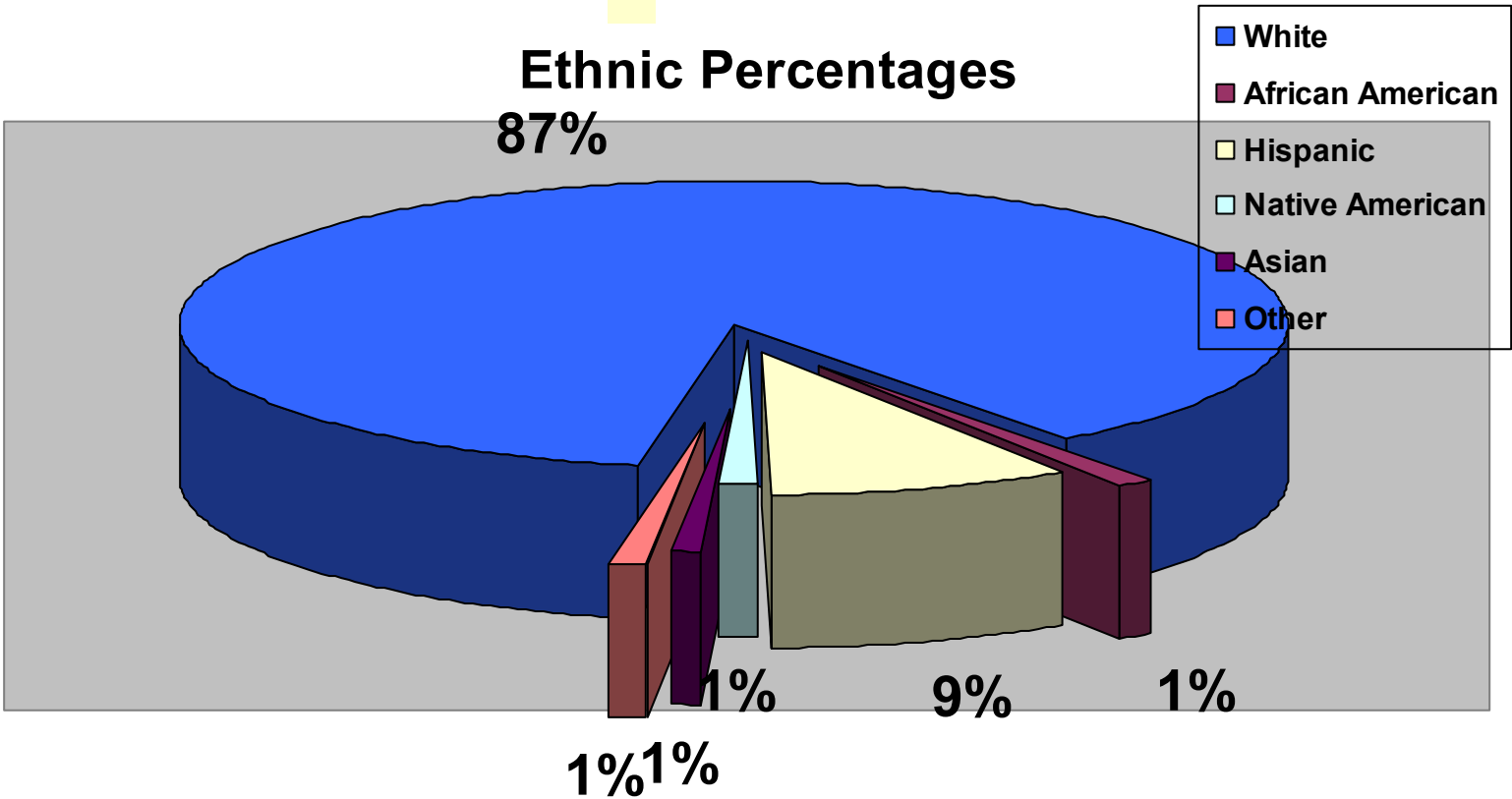


The breakdown of class types, numbers and student numbers are shown in the charts below. While there were a few less classes in 2006, the number of students attending and successfully completing hunter education classes in Colorado increased by 676 students, an increase of 4%.

**Class Types and Numbers**



**Ethnic Percentages**



Ethnic information is recorded in compliance with Federal Assistance requirements. Information is based on visual observations by the instructors.



The Hunter Education Program is funded by Wildlife Restoration funds from excise taxes collected from the sales of firearms, ammunition and archery equipment.

## Hunting Incidents 2008

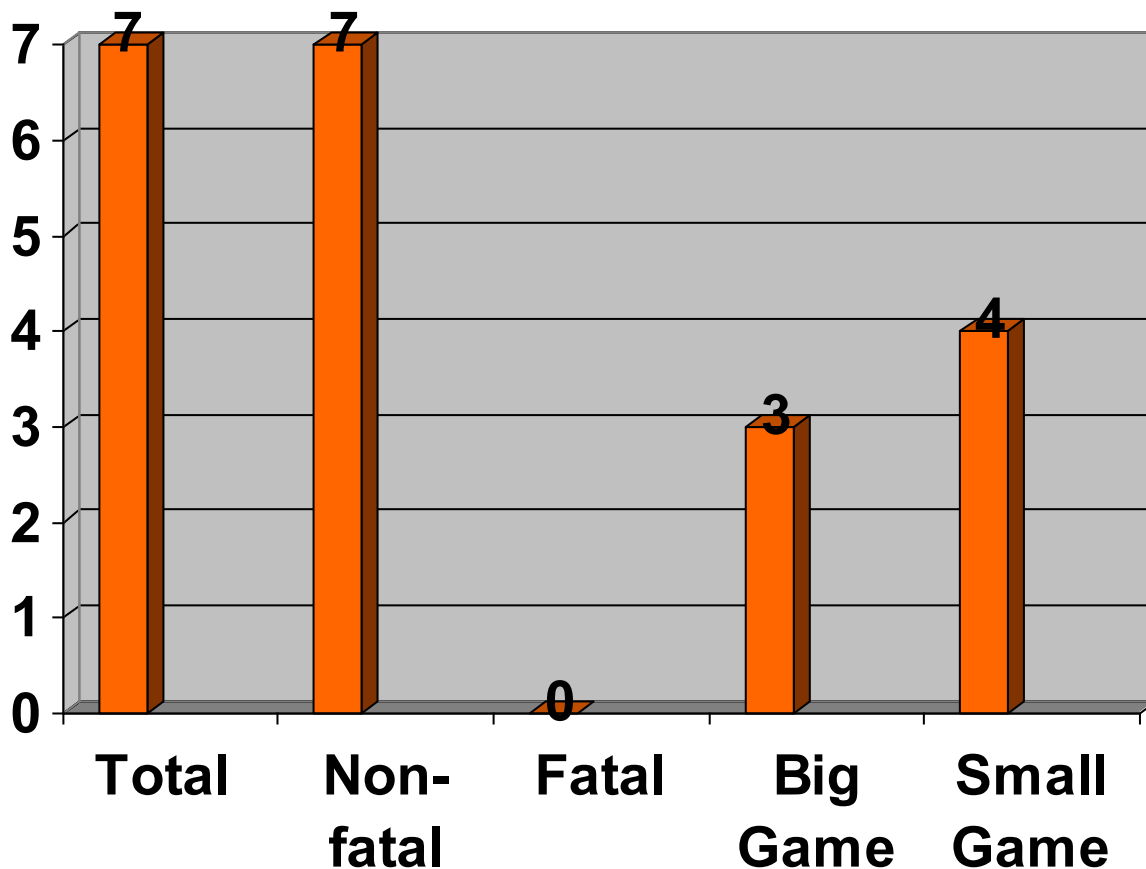
Colorado experienced a very safe hunting year in 2006. Sadly though, we must report that there was one fatal hunting incident that resulted from careless handling of a firearm when a sling slipped and the loaded rifle being carried discharged when the shooter tried to catch it and hit the trigger. The round struck the shooter's father, killing him.

This is a painful reminder of the old saying **“a moment of carelessness can mean a lifetime of consequences!”**

Hunting incidents include not only injuries and deaths resulting from firearm and bow related incidents while hunting, but also firearm and bow related injuries and deaths that occur not while hunting. In 2006 there were two incidents that are in the gray area between hunting and doing damage prevention and control with a firearm. These examples include a person trying to shoot raccoons that were killing chickens and an employee of an predator control agency that suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the leg. Since both firearms and wildlife were involved, these incidents are included in this report.

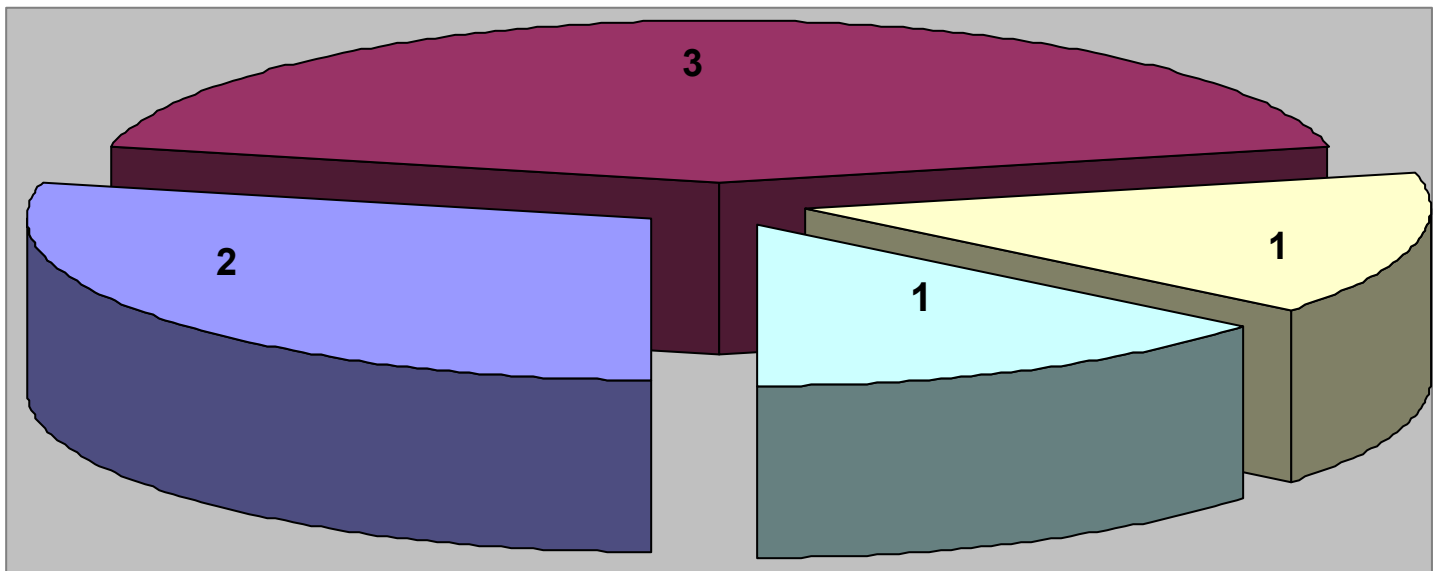
Total hunting license sales in Colorado exceeded 540,000 in 2006, resulting in several million hunter recreation days. As shown in the charts below, only 8 reportable hunting incidents were seen— again showing that hunting is among the safest outdoor activity.

### Hunting Incidents 2008

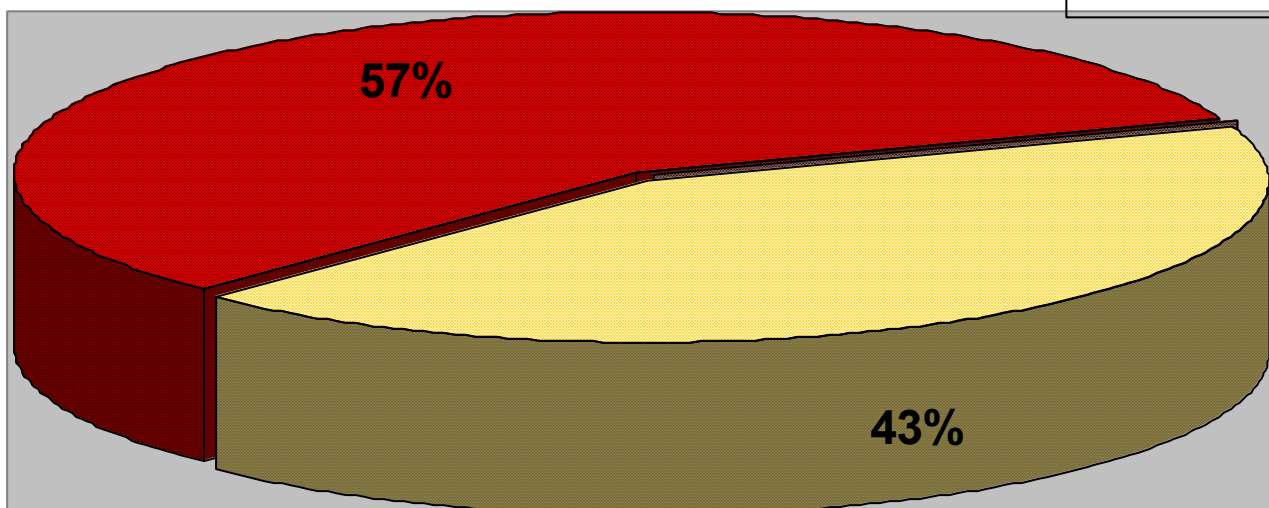


**Contributing Factors:** While many hunting incidents involve more than one possible cause, the primary factor in the incident is listed. For example, swinging on game and victim out of sight are often involved in the same incident, as is careless handling and stumbling. One careless handling involved practicing “quick draw” shooting at grasshoppers.

- Swinging on Game
- Careless Handling of Firearm
- Victim out of sight
- Stumbled &/or Fell



- Big Game
- Small Game



**Careless handling of firearms** - including things such as running with a loaded firearm, walking with a finger on the trigger and the safety off, and carrying loaded firearms slung with the safety off - was the leading contributing factor in hunting incidents in 2008. Swinging on game and victim out of sight were also involved in several hunting incidents in 2008. Here's a summary:

Shooter Age	Victim Age	Hunter Ed	Firearm Type	Date	Species	Contributing Factor(s)
13	13	Yes Yes	.22 LR rifle	01/26	Rabbits	Hunter had rifle cocked and ready when he tripped and fired gun, striking companion in the foot. Bullet passed through toes. Hunting without adult supervision, <b>careless handling of firearm</b> .
56	54	Yes Yes	12 ga. shotgun	02/16	Comm Park pheasant/ chukar	Shooter and victim hunting at commercial park, separated and didn't communicate positions. Shooter swung on chukar and 2 pellets struck victim 50 yds. away. May have been flyers. <b>Swinging on game, victim out of sight</b> .
16	*	Yes	.22 single action rev	07/30	grasshoppers	Shooter/victim had been shooting at prairie dogs then decided to practice his "quick draw" skills on grasshoppers. Drew revolver with finger on trigger and shot self in foot. <b>Careless handling</b> .
74	19	Yes Yes	12 ga. shotgun	09/07	Dusky grouse	Shooter and victim separated and lost track of each other. Shooter flushed grouse and fired three shots - heard victim yell after 3rd shot. Victim was out of sight on other side of trees, hit by numerous #7 1/2 shot. <b>Victim out of sight of shooter</b> .
57	53	Yes Yes	.300 Mag	10/08	Elk	Shooter mistakenly picked up a group member's rifle when they left the vehicles in the pre-dawn darkness. Shooter knew his rifle was unloaded. After walking up trail, shooter stopped to load his rifle. He turned around, thinking he was last in line, and flipped the safety off to open the bolt. The rifle discharged (trigger pulled?) and bullet hit victim in the shoulder. Shooter was not familiar with the rifle he had picked up and it was already loaded. Non-fatal. <b>Shooter not familiar with firearm and handling in a careless manner</b> .
45	*	Yes	Rifle .300 Rem mag.	10/14	Elk	Shooter/victim was placing <b>loaded</b> rifle into scabbard on backpack and thinks he bumped the safety off and hit the trigger. Bullet went through pack, hit ground and victim took shrapnel in calf. Sought medical help the next day. <b>Careless handling of firearm</b> .
37	*	Yes	Rifle 7mm Mag	10/19	Elk	Victim/shooter was hunting elk when he spotted an animal in heavy cover. Victim flipped the safety to fire and chambered a round in his rifle while looking through the scope trying to "glass" the area and locate the animal - instead of using binoculars. Victim slipped and fell backwards and while falling, intentionally put muzzle of rifle on boot to keep dirt out of barrel. He pulled the trigger while falling, firing rifle and bullet hit the second toe on left foot, removing 1/3 of toe. Remainder of toe had to be amputated and stitches were required in toes on both sides. <b>Careless handling of firearm and shooter stumbled and fell</b> .

**Species Hunted**

