SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 2-14-13
BILL NO. SB 285

To: Senator Scott Sales

From: Jason Mohr, research analyst, LSD

Date: Feb. 13

Senator Sales,

Please find attached the information from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks you requested related to:

- Citations for not wearing hunter orange (Montana)
- Hunter accident rates, information (Montana, Idaho)

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any more information.

Sincerely,

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# Summary of Montana Hunting Fatalities and Accidents

**August 2010**

Data in this summary was originally compiled for a report presented to Montana Hunter Education Instructors at regional training workshops in winter/spring 2010

## Why study accidents and fatalities?

- Learn from mistakes
- Improve safety
- Help build a mindset of safety into new and existing hunters

**Basic premise:** Hunting in Montana already is a "safe" activity. Of more than 225,000 hunters afield annually, Montana averages less than four fatalities per year from all hunting related causes. However, even one accident or fatality is one too many.

**Hunting fatality numbers over time in Montana:** As the population of Montana has increased, so has the number of hunters. Hunting fatality numbers peaked in Montana in the 1950's and 60's, averaging close to 20 fatalities per year, and have shown a steady decline since that time, even though the number of hunters along with the population of the state has increased.

## What are some possible reasons for the decline of fatalities over the past 50 years?

- Hunter Education begun in 1957
- Hunter Orange requirements
- Implementation of other safety-related laws and regulations such as shooting hour restrictions

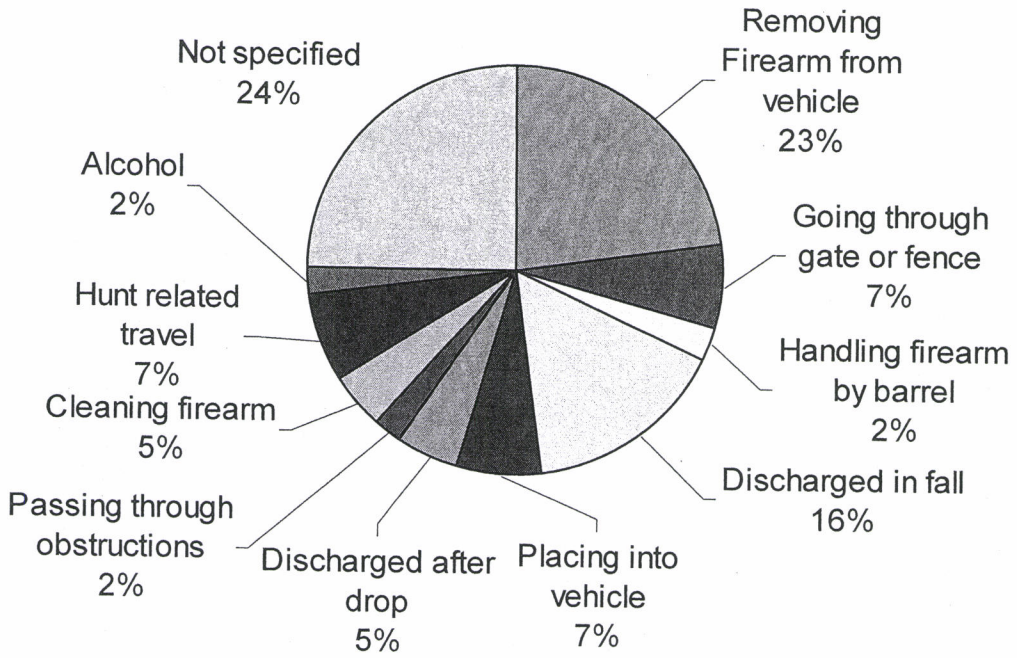
## Since 1960, the five most common causes of hunting fatalities are:

- Health related reasons – 61 fatalities (including 56 heart attacks)
- Due to hunter's own negligence – 44 fatalities
- Due to hunting companion's negligence – 37 fatalities
- Due to hunters going missing – 34 fatalities
- Directly related to vehicles – 34 fatalities (most during vehicle crashes while hunting)

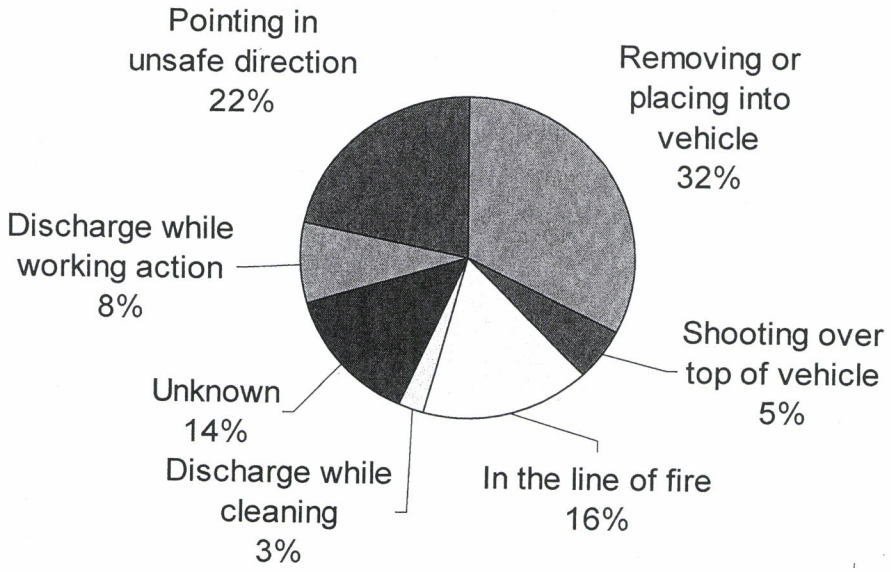
On the reverse of this sheet can be found graphs further detailing the most common causes of fatalities due to either the hunter's or their companion's negligence. Note that approximately one in every three of these fatalities occurred when placing a firearm into or removing a firearm from a vehicle. This suggests an area for Hunter Education Instructors to focus additional time and effort with their students in the future.

Finally, see the attached lesson plan dealing with firearms and vehicles.

## 44 Hunting Fatalities Due to Own Negligence After 1960




## 37 Hunting Fatalities by Companion (post 1960)



Idaho hunting acccidents

| Year | Victim's Home City | State | Shooter's Home City | State | # years experience | Age of Victim | Age of Shooter | Fatal/ Non Fatal | Party related | Location County | Animal Hunted | Cause | predominant clothing color of victim | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | Coeurd'Ale | ID | Coeur d'Al | ID | unknown | | 38 | non | N | Kootenai | turkey | mistaken for game | camo | | |
| 2003 | Coeurd'Ale | ID | Dalton Gar | ID | unknown | | 15 | non | | Kootenai | deer | placing gun in vehicle | unknown | | |
| 2003 | Santa Clar | UT | Rexburg | ID | unknown | | 26 | non | y | Madison | rabbits | shoot from roadway/ ricochet | unknown | | |
| 2003 | Boise | ID | Caldwell | ID | unknown | | 39 | non | n | Canyon | ducks | careless handling/victim in line of fire | camoflage | | |
| 2004 | Caldwell | ID | Boise | ID | unknown | | 18 | non | n | Boise | grouse | accidental disch/ ricochet | unknown | | |
| 2004 | Rigby | ID | Rigby | ID | unknown | | 18 | fatal | y | Madison | deer | victim out of sight | unknown | | |
| 2004 | Post Falls | ID | Caldwell | ID | unknown | | 57 | non | n | Shoshone | deer | mistaken for game | camoflage | | |
| 2004 | Spokane | WA | Hayden | ID | unknown | | 18 | non | n | Kootenai | squirrel | ricochet/ careless handling | unknown | | |
| 2004 | Emmett | ID | Boise | ID | unknown | | | non | n | Gem | pheasant | victim out of sight/ trespassing | unknown | | |
| 2005 | Pocatello | ID | Chubbuck | ID | unknown | | 11 | non | n | Bingham | pheasant | victim in line of fire | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2005 | unknown | | Star | ID | unknown | | | non | | Canyon | deer | victim in line of fire | unknown | no | yes |
| 2005 | Plummer | ID | Hayden La | ID | unknown | | 24 | fatal | | Benewah | deer | victim in line of fire | camoflage | no | no |
| 2006 | Orofino | ID | Eagle | ID | unknown | | 13 | non | y | Clearwater | birds | victim in line of fire | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2006 | | | St. Anthony | ID | unknown | 27 | 25 | non | n | Fremont | elk | mistaken for game | camoflage | yes | yes |
| 2006 | Black Diam | WA | Black Diam | WA | unknown | 32 | 57 | fatal | y | Idaho | elk | mistaken for game | ull camoflag | unknown | no |
| 2006 | Homedale | ID | Nampa | ID | unknown | 14 | 17 | non | y | Canyon | quail | victim in line of fire | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2006 | Priest Rive | ID | Priest Rive | ID | unknown | 16 | 16 | fatal | y | Bonner | deer | careless firearm handling | camoflage | unknown | unknown |
| 2006 | Meridian | ID | Fernwood | ID | unknown | 44 | 32 | non | y | Benewah | deer | careless firearm handling | unknown | yes | yes |
| 2007 | | ID | | ID | unknown | 15 | | non | | Kootenai | grouse | victim in line of fire | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2007 | St. Maries | ID | St. Maries | ID | unknown | 39 | 39 | fatal | | Benewah | | removing firearm from vehicle | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2008 | Nampa | ID | Grangeville | ID | unknown | 36 | 18 | non | | Idaho | turkey | mistaken for game | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2008 | Idaho Falls | ID | | | unknown | 53 | | non | | Madison | ducks | | unknown | unknown | yes (in OK) |
| 2008 | Wilder | ID | Wilder | ID | unknown | 57 | 57 | non | n | Gem | elk | sliding rifle in scabbard | unknown | no | yes |
| 2008 | Deer Park | WA | Coeur d'Al | ID | unknown | 57 | 64 | fatal | n | Shoshone | elk | mistaken for game | camoflage | unknown | unknown |
| 2009 | Rigby | ID | St. Anthony | ID | unknown | 66 | 28 | non | n | Madison | deer | Victim walking dog/mistaken for game | hunter oran | unknown | unknown |
| 2009 | Emmett | ID | Emmett | ID | unknown | 42 | 12 | non | n | Gem | deer | rifle discharged while unslinging | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2009 | Hailey | ID | Hailey | ID | unknown | 46 | 46 | non | n | Idaho | pheasant | shotgun exploded | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2010 | Rexburg | ID | Rigby | ID | unknown | 35 | 57 | non | n | Madison | deer | mistaken for deer/shot in chest by 12 gauge shotgun slug | camoflage | unknown | unknown |

Idaho hunting acccidents

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2011 | Meridian | ID | Meridian | ID | unknown | 40 | 40 | non | y | Valley | deer | Self inflicted -- While dragging harvested deer, antlers caught on holstered sidearm - gun discharged | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2011 | Driggs | ID | | | unknown | | | non | n | Teton | ducks | Dog stepped on loaded shotgun in vehicle - shotgun discharged. | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2011 | Coeurd'Ale | ID | oeur d'Aler | ID | unknown | 7 | 36 | fatal | n | Kootenai | deer/elk | Rifle discharged while father was putting it into vehicle | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2011 | Franklin | ID | Franklin | ID | unknown | 17 | 17 | non | n | Franklin | deer | Shot self in foot while moving through brush | unknown | | |
| 2011 | Madison | ID | | | unknown | | | fatal | n | Clark | elk | ATV overturned crushing victim | unknown | | |
| 2011 | Canyon | ID | Canyon | ID | unknown | 13 | 13 | non | | Canyon | ducks | Self inflicted - 20 ga. shotgun | unknown | | |
| 2012 | unknown | | unknown | | unknown | | | non | | Elmore | unknown | Self inflicted - shot in foot | unknown | | |
| 2012 | unknown | | unknown | | unknown | | | non | | Elmore | unknown | Rifle disharged while unloading it | unknown | | |
| 2012 | Gooding | ID | unknown | | unknown | 10 | unknown | Non | | Elmore | deer | Under investigation - possible richoet | unknown | unknown | unknown |
| 2012 | Irwin | ID | Irwin | ID | unknown | 31 | 31 | Non | | Bonneville | unknown | Rifle discharged while removing it from a truck | unknown | unknown | unknown |

*02/05/2013*

# *Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks*

***Violation Code Summary Report for Violation Dates Between 01/01/2002 and 12/31/2012***

***Report Type = Hunt Big Game Without Fluorscent Orange***

*NTA30801*



| Violation Type/Code/Description | | Year | Nres NTA' s | Res NTA' s | Nres Bond/Fine | Res Bond/Fine | Nres CC's | Res CC's |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HUNT BIG GAME W/O | FLUORESCENT ORANGE | 2002 | 9 | 33 | $180.00 | $820.00 | 1 | 12 |
| HUNT BIG GAME W/O | FLUORESCENT ORANGE | 2003 | 3 | 34 | $60.00 | $970.00 | 4 | 11 |
| HUNT BIG GAME W/O | FLUORESCENT ORANGE | 2004 | 15 | 19 | $310.00 | $420.00 | 4 | 15 |
| HUNT BIG GAME W/O | FLUORESCENT ORANGE | 2005 | 4 | 19 | $80.00 | $330.00 | 5 | 14 |
| HUNT BIG GAME W/O | FLUORESCENT ORANGE | 2006 | 5 | 21 | $170.00 | $410.00 | 3 | 8 |
| HUNT BIG GAME W/O | FLUORESCENT ORANGE | 2007 | 7 | 18 | $140.00 | $348.00 | 4 | 18 |
| HUNT BIG GAME W/O | FLUORESCENT ORANGE | 2008 | 8 | 25 | $100.00 | $835.00 | 3 | 1 |
| HUNT BIG GAME W/O | FLUORESCENT ORANGE | 2009 | 9 | 34 | $180.00 | $620.00 | 5 | 0 |
| HUNT BIG GAME W/O | FLUORESCENT ORANGE | 2010 | 10 | 20 | $210.00 | $360.00 | 16 | 10 |
| HUNT BIG GAME W/O | FLUORESCENT ORANGE | 2011 | 9 | 39 | $230.00 | $1,005.00 | 10 | 9 |
| HUNT BIG GAME W/O | FLUORESCENT ORANGE | 2012 | 1 | 2 | $20.00 | $20.00 | 0 | 0 |
| **Totals:** | | | **80** | **264** | **$1,680.00** | **$6,138.00** | **55** | **98** |