

2009 Hunting Incident Report

2009 was a very safe year for hunters – and again this is thanks to the outstanding efforts hunter education instructors. Here's a summary of the incident reports received in 2009:

- Small game/dove: **shooter out of sight of victim** and shot towards a tree row and victim, in tree row, was struck by several pellets. Shooter not identified.
- Big game/elk: shooter/victim was fiddling with the safety on his rifle and shot himself in the leg with .300 magnum caliber. Severe wound, but leg was saved. Shooter held NE hunter education card. **Careless Handling of Firearm.**
- Big game/pronghorn: shooter/victim shot a pronghorn and chambered another round before starting to walk to the animal. Shooter forgot to engage the safety and discharged the rifle while walking. The bullet struck the shooter on the right foot and left a wound on the big toe that required a couple of stitches. Shooter insisted on caring for the pronghorn before seeking medical attention. Shooter was 67 years of age and from PA – no hunter education card. **Careless Handling of Firearms.**
- Waterfowl/goose: investigation is not complete on a December goose hunting incident where victim says that his shotgun “blew up” and injured his hand. Both CDOW and Sheriff's Officers are trying to get more information from a not fully cooperative shooter/victim.

Other than these, there was the case where a rifle blew up that did not occur while hunting. It looks like just four reportable hunting incidents for 2009! Considering that there were several million hunter recreation days last year, this is very impressive indeed.