



Colorado Division of Wildlife

2007 Hunting Incident Report Summary

The number of hunting incidents that occurred in 2007 was very low, which is good proof that hunting is among the safest of outdoor activities. With over 2 million hunter recreation days and only four reportable hunting incidents, one can see that hunting is safe and is still getting safer. A hunting incident is defined as an injury or death that was the result of the discharge of a firearm or bow while hunting. For training purposes, we include reported injuries that did not occur while hunting as these are often the result of carelessness with firearms and show the need for good safety training. As can be seen in the following table, swinging on game and not keeping aware of the location of hunting partners and other hunters caused most of the hunting incidents in 2007.

Hunt Smart, Hunt Safe!

Date	County	Fatal	Summary of Incident
9/1/07	Otero	No	Swinging on game, victim out of sight of shooter. Brothers, 43 and 48 years of age were hunting doves together. Victim had moved and was obscured by vegetation when shooter swung on dove in a direction he thought was safe. Victim hit by two pellets, one lodged in scalp and the other passed through the tragus of his ear.
9/1/07	Pueblo	No	Victim hit by pellets fired by unknown shooter who was swinging on game. Victim was struck by several pellets and one drew blood, no pellets lodged in victim. Careless hunting and swinging on game.
11/16/07	Yuma	No	Victim and shooter were hunting pheasants together when birds flushed in several directions around and between the hunters. When victim raised his shotgun to shoot at a pheasant, he was struck by pellets in his left hand when the shooter fired at a pheasant going directly over the victim. Careless hunting and swinging on game.
12/09/07	Delta	No	Victim and shooter, a father and son, were hunting rabbits together. Father told son to shoot at a rabbit. When shooter fired, a single pellet bounced back and struck the victim in the hand. Victim had to seek medical help to remove the pellet. Careless hunting.
			NON-HUNTING INCIDENT
10/20/07	Gunnison	No	Victim/shooter was target shooting with .44 magnum. When a vehicle drove by his shooting location, victim lowered a fully cocked and loaded revolver to wait for car to drive by and discharged the revolver, striking himself in the foot. The bullet broke bones in the foot which required surgery. Careless handling of firearm.