

Safety

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jury rates, certain types of incidents occur at a higher rate. Among them are incidents involving a victim injured or killed when a shooter swings on game, as well as careless firearm handling. Those two areas may need more study and more emphasis in education programs," the researchers reported.

Other findings showed that more incidents occurred after 5 p.m. and that wearing "blaze orange" clothing might have helped victims avoid incidents. More attention might also have been given to these topics, the report recommended. Even though hunter orange is required on public lands, most hunting occurs on private

lands that comprise over 95% of Texas hunting lands.

It also found a high number of incidents in the vicinity of vehicles and a high proportion of incidents among hunters' ages 12 to 17. Laws restricting hunters from carrying firearms in vehicles and/or requiring youngsters to complete hunter education training sooner might be warranted, according to the findings. (Current law requires that a person between the ages of 12 through 16 either hunt with an adult or pass the course to hunt alone).

In addition to helping quantify types of incidents needing special attention, the statistical analysis also showed that head and torso

injuries occurred at a higher rate than injuries to other areas. The report also identified counties in which a higher percentage of the incidents occurred. Between 1966 and 1997, Llano County reported 50 incidents. The statistics is not alarming, considering Llano County also boasts the highest level of deer hunting in the state. Llano County hosts nearly 16,000 of the state's 515,000 active deer hunters and has the highest concentration of hunting activity at 24 hunters per 1,000 acres.

Other counties that stood out included Lamar with 40 incidents, Erath (38), San Saba (33), Brown (32), Medina (31), Cherokee (31), Angelina (30), McCullough (28), and Lampasas (28). Twelve counties (Upshur, Stonewall, Sterling,

Roberts, Parmer, Martin, Loving, Lipscomb, King, Garza, Carson and Borden) had no incidents recorded.

The report, financed equally by TPW and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, used the term "incident" instead of "accident" because some instances involved suspected homicides or suicides. The researchers used the database to profile incidents by 11 factors; injury type, injury locations, incident type, incident by county, month, day of week, time of day, land ownership, environmental factors, firearm type, and distance of muzzle to victim.

They profiled shooters by gender, age, hunting experience, hunter education status, influence of alcohol or drugs, and species hunted. Victims were profiled by all of those factors except species hunted, and they were also profiled by their activity, clothing worn and whether they were wearing blaze orange.

The report made a number of recommendations including the use of more hands-on instruction and skill evaluations and the use of a variety of instruction media. It also made a number of recommendations for improving the hunter incident report form, including adding such variables as the type of ammunition, relationship between shooter and victim, and various other data.

Finally, the report made several suggestions for law enforce-

ment investigations including designing special materials and procedures for Texas game wardens investigation incidents and more on-site investigation.

For a summary of the report or for a copy of last year's hunting accident investigation report, contact Steve Hall, education director, TPW, 512-389-4999; steve.hall@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Hunter Education Requirements

Every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course.

If you were born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, and you are:

- age 17 and over, you must successfully complete a hunter education course.

- age 12 through 16, you must successfully complete a hunter education course or be accompanied by a licensed hunter 17 years of age or older.

- under 12 years of age, you must be accompanied by a licensed hunter 17 years of age or older (Hunter education training is recommended but not required).

The minimum age to qualify for hunter education certification is 12 years and costs \$10. Proof of certification is required to be on your person while hunting; it is not required to purchase a license.

For course information, call 1-800-792-1112, menu 6-2 or con-

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Stony's Taxidermy is ready for business at 100 W. Center in Eagle Lake, 409 234-3698.

I'm looking forward to meeting and doing business with some of the finest people in the world... Hunters.

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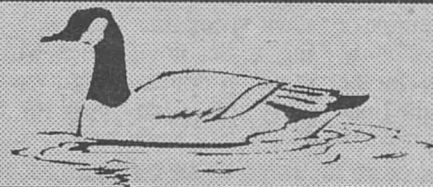
So, if you have something you'd like to have mounted (deer, turkey, bobcat, ducks, geese or maybe European mounts, rugs, antler, novelty items, etc.) come by and let me show you my displays.

Hope to see you. Have a Safe and Great Hunting Season.

Thanks,
Stony's Taxidermy



Black Buck Antelope
mounted by "Stony" Tise



Welcome Hunters



The Cupboard

Highway 90A By-Pass
Eagle Lake

Across from Sportsman's Motel

- ☞ Hot Breakfast items (Pigs in a Blanket, Breakfast Tacos, etc.)
- ☞ Hot Foods (Corn Dogs, Onion Rings, Burritos, French Fries, Chicken Nuggets, Fried Okra, etc.)
- ☞ Tamales and Hot Links
- ☞ Hot and Cold Sandwiches
- ☞ Cold Drinks and Ice
- ☞ Lunch Supplies and Snacks
- ☞ Cold Lunches and Lunch Meats
- ☞ Hot Snacks (Buffalo Wings, etc.)
- ☞ Daily Plate Lunch Specials
- ☆ Sporting Goods
- ☆ Worms, frozen fish bait, live minnows
- ☆ Shotgun Shells



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