

# HUNTER SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY



# Topics of Discussion

- Hunting Incidents
- Hunting Safety
- The Written Law
- The Unwritten Law  
hunting ethics



# Hunting Incidents

- Hunting incidents are those which cause personal injury or death to any person as a result of a person's actions while hunting
- May be directly or indirectly related to the use of firearms
- Can be avoided by following the guidelines referred to as the **“Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety”**

# 4 main causes of hunting incidents

## 1. Hunter's lack of good judgement

- victim moved in line of fire
- victim covered by shooter swinging on game
- victim out of sight of shooter
- victim mistaken for game

# 4 main causes of hunting incidents

## 2. Violations of Laws or Safety Rules-lack of preparation, common sense and good habits

- improper crossing of fence or difficult terrain
- moving sporting arm from or placing it in vehicle
- riding in vehicle with loaded firearm
- firearm falling from secure rest
- horseplay
- using firearm as a club or stick to move branches or to lean on

# 4 main causes of hunting incidents

## 3. Skill and Aptitude-lack of care and control

- trigger caught on object
- loading or unloading firearm or bow
- shooter stumbling or falling

# 4 main causes of hunting incidents

4. Mechanical failure-lack of preparation and examination
  - obstructed barrel or improper ammunition
  - defective ammunition/arrows
  - defective firearm/bow

The most common incidents are  
caused by

**hunter judgement mistakes**



The 2nd most common incidents  
are caused by

**safety rule violations or  
because of illegal actions  
by hunters**

- Things you can do to make it safer
  - common sense

The 2nd most common incidents  
are caused by

**safety rule violations or  
because of illegal actions  
by hunters**

- Things you can do to make it safer
  - good safety habits

The 2nd most common incidents  
are caused by

**safety rule violations or  
because of illegal actions  
by hunters**

- Things you can do to make it safer
  - let your friends know the instant they are being unsafe or careless

The 2nd most common incidents  
are caused by

**safety rule violations or  
because of illegal actions  
by hunters**

- Things you can do to make it safer
  - you should be prepared ahead of time to be safe

The 3rd most common incidents  
are caused by

**Those which show lack of  
control and practice**

- Things you can do to make it safer
  - when the going gets rough, unload your firearm
  - use two handed carry when possible

# HUNTER SAFETY

## Know the **Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety**

1. Always point muzzle in a safe direction
2. Treat ever firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or knocked arrow
3. Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond your target
4. Unload firearms and unstring recurve and long bows when not in use

# HUNTER SAFETY

## Know the **Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety**

5. Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition carefully
6. Know your safe zone of fire and stick to it
7. Control your emotions when it comes to safety
8. Wear hearing and eye protection
9. Don't drink alcoholic beverages or take drugs before or while handling firearms or bow and arrows
10. Be aware of additional circumstances which require added caution or safety awareness

# HUNTING REGULATIONS

- Laws are written rules made by society through their government
- What governing body passes laws?  
The Legislature
- The Commission issues regulations to comply with these laws which explains what is legal for hunters to do
- Regulations are compiled each year in a regulations manual



# HUNTING REGULATIONS

- Hunting laws are classified as either  
felonies (very serious)  
misdemeanors
  - class A- most serious
  - class B-Moderately serious
  - class C-Least serious
- A person that violates wildlife laws may also be charged with **civil restitution**

# HUNTING REGULATIONS

- This means additional fees for the cost of restoring that animal species back into the environment
- Several hundred dollars for white tail to thousands dollars for endangered or threatened species

# HUNTING REGULATIONS

- Laws are made for several reasons
  - to protect wildlife and resource
  - protect people and property
  - to insure fair share for all hunters
  - to insure fair chase
  - to provide information about wildlife populations

# HUNTING ETHICS

Hunting ethics are personal codes by which we live by.

Ethics deal with what is safe, proper and fair.

Ethics are sometimes known as morals and morals are generally right.

# HUNTING ETHICS

## An Example

It may be legal to shoot many times at an animal, hoping to hit it with one of the shots. But, is it ethical? Ethical hunters will not take shots outside of their **effective range**

# HUNTING ETHICS

**Another way to look at ethics is the “4 C’s”.**

- Careful
- Courteous
- Considerate
- Capable

# HUNTING ETHICS

**Another way to look at ethics is the “4 C’s”.**

Careful

A hunters commitment and attitude to basic rules of safety

# HUNTING ETHICS

**Another way to look at ethics is the “4 C’s”.**

## Courteous

A hunters behavior. To be courteous means to be polite or gracious



# HUNTING ETHICS

**Another way to look at ethics is the “4 C’s”.**

Considerate

A hunters respect for others

# HUNTING ETHICS

**Another way to look at ethics is the “4 C’s”.**

## Capable

A hunters ability including marksmanship, outdoor skills, knowledge level and good judgment