



What are they doing about

Hunting Injuries ?

DEC and hunters have done a lot to make hunting safer.

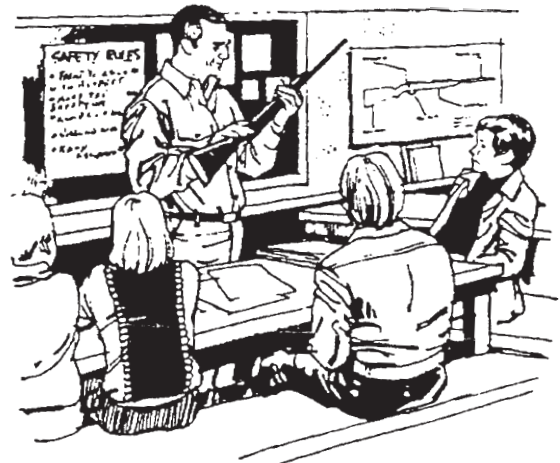
We can all do even more, because most injuries are preventable.

What has been done?

Mandatory Hunter Education. All first time hunters must pass a 10 hour or longer hunter education course. New York has over 3,000 trained volunteer Sportsman Education instructors who heavily emphasize safety and responsibility.

Laws. Many hunting laws help to ensure safety.

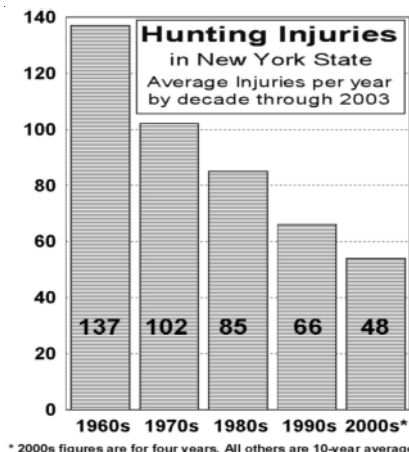
- Legal **hunting hours** for big game and most small game is sunrise to sunset. Good light helps hunters positively identify their targets.
- Types of **firearms and ammunition** for hunting are regulated by law.
- **Where hunters can shoot** is regulated. It is illegal to shoot on or across a road, or within 500 feet of any school or playground, or other building in occupation or use, without permission.
- It is **illegal** to have loaded rifles or shotguns in or on a **motor vehicle**.
- **Special Rules for Junior Hunters:** Hunters under 16 can only get a license with parental permission, and they can hunt only when supervised by an adult hunter designated in writing by parents or guardians.



Safe Hunters. New York's hunters are very safety-conscious. For instance, hunter orange clothing can prevent some hunting accidents. Even though it is not required by law, hunter orange is worn by more than 80% of New York's big game hunters. Hunter Orange is extremely visible to humans even though it does not alarm deer. In fact, hunting success has increased since hunters have been using hunter orange.

The Results:

Hunting is safe and getting safer.



The hunting injury rate (injuries per 100,000 hunters) has been cut more than 67% over the past 35 years, even while the number of hunters grew and hunting land decreased. The safest year ever was 2003, with only 32 injuries.

People who hunt are careful. There are nearly 700,000 hunters in New York. Only one in 14,000 causes an accident, so **99.99 percent of hunters don't cause firearms injuries.**



Injury Facts

Hunters and DEC are very concerned about safety, and have excellent laws and programs to avoid injuries. As a result, hunting is one of the safest recreational activities. A person is four times more likely to die while swimming than to be fatally wounded in a hunting accident. People are much safer in the woods than on the roads. A person is much more likely to be seriously injured or killed while using a bicycle or small off-road vehicle than while hunting.

Is Hunting Dangerous? You Be The Judge

Activity	Participants	Injuries	Deaths
Swimming	59,500,000	83,772	1,500
Bicycling	45,100,000	49,000	700
Hunting (shooting only)	15,400,000	880	92

National Safety Council figures, 1999.

The most dangerous part of a hunt is the drive to the hunting area. Even though New York is one of the safest states for driving, a person is much more likely to be injured in a one hour drive than in a whole day of hunting.

Most injuries are not life-threatening. Over two-thirds of the people injured in hunting incidents are treated and released in the same day.

Hunting accidents typically involve only hunters.

Struck by Lightning: A Significant Hazard?

A person who is not hunting is 45 times more likely to be killed by a bolt of lightning than by a hunter's bullet. (average U.S. lightning deaths, 90 per year; average non-hunter deaths in hunting incidents, less than two per year.) - National Safety Council figures, 1999.

Deer as Hazards: Nationwide, more people are killed by deer (ca. 100-150 per year, in collisions with motor vehicles) than are killed in hunting-related shooting incidents (fewer than 100 fatal hunting-related shootings, including self-inflicted accidents). Each year in New York, over 1,000 people are injured in 60,000 - 70,000 deer-related highway accidents. Such collisions are most common where hunting is restricted.

EVERY INJURY IS ONE TOO MANY! Make sure everyone you hunt with follows these rules!

Advice for Hunters

Assume Control from Trigger to Target ...and beyond



1. Assume every gun is loaded.
2. Control the Muzzle. Point it in a safe direction.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and beyond.

UP A TREE? Stay Alive!



- Strap in FIRST. Use a Harness and short tether to prevent falls
- Never climb with gun or bow. Raise & lower it with a rope ~ **UNloaded!**
- Climb with a safety belt. Falls happen when climbing and getting in/out of stands.
- Permanent stands rot! Use a portable!

...AND Control where other hunters shoot by wearing **Hunter Orange!** Prevent somebody else's mistake!

Wearing Hunter Orange Saves Lives! From 1994 through 2003 four out of five deer hunters wore hunter orange. Not even one who wore hunter orange was mistaken for game and killed. But 15 hunters who did NOT wear orange were killed when mistaken for game.

- One third of hunting injuries are **self-inflicted**, and most others are caused by a **friend or relative**. (*Insist your partners follow the rules!*)
- Many hunting injuries are caused by **accidental firing**, when people are not shooting. (*Be Careful! - See rules 1, 2 and 3, above*) But...
- Most occur while shooting, and for over half of these, **target visibility or people in the line of fire** is involved. (*Be Careful, AND Wear Hunter Orange!*)
- **Falls while climbing trees** permanently disable many hunters each year.

For more information...

- class schedules
- instructor applications
- answers to your questions

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