

Hunting Safety

Over 1,000 people each year are shot by a hunter. According to the North Dakota Game and Fish, there were six hunting incidents in North Dakota in 2015 – all involving self-inflicted injuries. Four hunters shot themselves while getting in or out of their vehicle, and two shot themselves while lying in blinds.

To help ensure you have a safe hunting season, it's helpful to first understand the most common causes of hunting incidents:

- **Judgment Mistakes**, such as mistaking a person for game, not checking what's in front of or beyond your target, and getting caught up in the excitement of the hunt.
- **Not Following Firearm Safety Rules**
- **Not Enough Practice** leads to things like unintentional discharges and stray shots.
- **Mechanical Failures** such as an obstructed barrel or improper ammunition

Do your best to avoid a hunting incident this fall by following these four primary rules of firearm safety:

- **Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction.** Your gun should never be pointed toward anything you don't intend to shoot.

- **Always assume a gun is loaded.** There's no such thing as an unloaded weapon.
- **Make sure you know what's in front of and beyond the target.** If you cannot see what lies beyond your target, NEVER TAKE THE SHOT.
- **Keep Your Finger OFF the Trigger.** Your finger should never be inside the trigger guard unless you're ready to shoot.

Sometimes, no matter how much we prepare, injuries still happen. To learn how to handle some of the most common first aid emergencies such as tree stand falls, heart attacks, and frost bite, attend a CPR/AED/First Aid course near you.

One of the most important aspects of safely firing your gun while out on a hunt is to never fire your gun outside of your Zone-of-Fire.

- Your Zone-of-Fire is the 45 degree area directly in front of each hunter.

Hunters who wear hunter orange are 7 times less likely to be shot



**COMMUNITY
PROTECTION**

Check out our course list online for a variety of safety trainings provided across the state at

www.ndsc.org

The North Dakota Safety Council is a private non-profit organization supported through grants, donations, memberships and training.

