

Volume 41

Summer/Fall  
2013

# HUNTER EDUCATION NEWS & IHEA JOURNAL



DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT  
EDUCATION SECTION

## FIREARMS SAFETY / ADVANCED HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

*On July 3rd 2013 a new certification option for Adults to receive their MNDNR Firearms Safety Hunter Education Certificate went live on the internet. Minnesota residents 18 and older can now complete all of their certification requirements online utilizing the HunterCourse materials and then completing a virtual field day or attending an Instructor lead Field Day.*

The Department is excited about offering this option. It's a quality course that meets all the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) Standards. The Safety reminders are all based on the field day experience and highlight the skills that are required to handle firearms safely while hunting or at the range. With their voucher students always have the option to attend an instructor lead field day. Each year approximately four thousand adults complete Firearms Safety Hunter Education in Minnesota. The military, working adults, police officers, women, apprentice hunters and those with previous hunting and firearms experience will find great value in this training option. The way the virtual field day is presented brings home the basic safety reminders that we all need to follow.



### HunterCourse.com plus Virtual Field Day

Step 1. Study the online course material

Step 2. Successfully complete all 16 Chapters (80% or better on all quizzes and exam)

Step 3. Successfully complete the final exam

Step 4. Purchase and print your Field Day Voucher and Self-Certify online

Step 5. OPTIONAL: Attend an instructor lead Field Day

Minnesota and Iowa are the first states to offer the Virtual Field Day option. Other states are in the process of getting ready to launch in 2013 and 2014.

**CAMP RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT?** In reviewing the previous years hunting related firearms accidents almost 60% were self-inflicted. Most were wounds to feet or legs at point blank range with a shotgun or rifle. The phrase "Must have shot him/herself in the foot" has new meaning when you are missing toes or shattered bones that will affect their ability to walk for the rest of there lives. A basic rule of Safe firearms handling is to never point a firearm at anything you don't intend to shoot. **THAT INCLUDES YOUR FEET!!!** Keep Your Muzzle Pointed in a Safe Direction. Many agree pointed up is better than down.

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**BOWHUNTER FIELD DAY MANUAL**

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# Revised Bow Hunter Field Day Manual

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The Minnesota Bowhunter Education Program has evolved over the years. When Bowhunter Education began, it included a lot of hands on training. Over the years it has become quite cumbersome to offer the classroom portion of the training, (about 8 hours of slides/ PowerPoint slides). In some cases, this cut into the Field Day portion of the training.

It is highly recommended that Instructors take a look at changing to the on-line classroom training for Bowhunters Education (<http://www.bowhunter-ed.com/minnesota>) followed by the Field Day. Whether you offer the traditional classroom or the on-line classroom training, the Field Day Instructor Manual provide guidance on the requirements of a field day. The Field Day allows students to experience simulated hunting scenarios and shows them areas of the hunt that they need to improve on. The instructor student ratio should be no more than 5 or 6 students per instructor. The Field Day allows instructors to be creative in how they setup their Field Day scenarios to test their student's abilities, with different 2D or 3D target shooting scenarios. If you have an archery club in your area, check with them and see if they would be interested in hosting the Field Day and maybe even becoming instructors themselves.

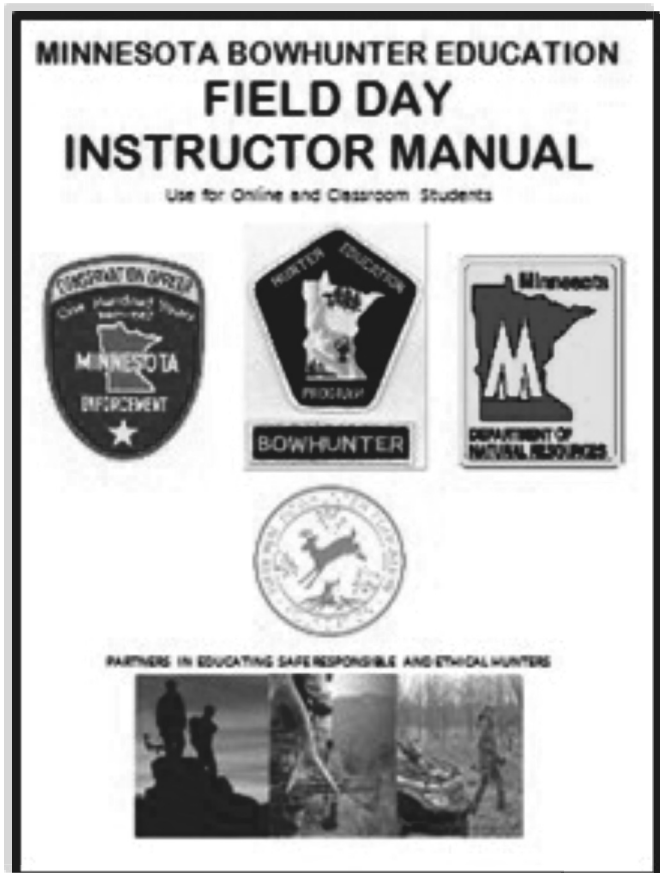
The requirements for the Field Day are;

- ◆ ARCHERY EQUIPMENT
- ◆ PICK-A-SPOT/JUDGING DISTANCES
- ◆ GAME SIGN TRAIL
- ◆ BLOOD TRAILING / GAME RECOVERY
- ◆ TREE STANDS AND BLINDS
- ◆ ORIENTEERING, SURVIVAL, & FIRST AID

The students take their written test as part of the on-line training and show up at your Field Day with a Field Day Voucher that indicates they have completed the on-line training for

Bowhunter Education. Students fill out a Registration and Parental Release Form (under 18 need parent's signature on form) and fees are collected. Student then participate in the field day activities.

Take the time to review the on-line training and see what you think. The newly updated Field Day Instructor Manual is in its final stages of review and editing and should be going to the printer shortly. Contact Rachael or your RTO for a copy or find it posted on the instructor web pages.



# Incident Analysis Update/Information Regarding the Accidental Discharge of a Firearm During a Minnesota Firearms Safety Hunter Education Class

By Capt. Mike Hammer Education Programs Coordinator

This past spring, I was notified of a serious safety breach that occurred in one of our DNR Firearms Safety Courses.

On April 12, 2013 a volunteer instructor contacted me to report that a handgun had accidentally been fired in a school classroom by one of our volunteer instructors prior to the start of a scheduled FAS class. In debriefing the incident I was relieved to learn that no one was hurt, but I did learn that there was a bullet hole in a wall at a school. This led to a police investigation, an internal review of the incident, as well as the voluntary resignation of the dedicated volunteer who fired the gun.

As you all know, we are all dedicated to firearms safety and this incident created an opportunity to increase safety and reduce our risk of liability regarding the way we deliver our training. Part of that response is to remind everyone that we must all insure that essential safeguards in place to prevent this from happening in the future. Our policy is that all firearms used in are program must be thoroughly inspected to insure they are unloaded and have a device installed to visually indicate that they are unloaded. In addition all dummy rounds must be inspected and must meet the specifications. I want to share the facts of the April incident with you, so we can all work together to support this policy to prevent future incidents.

This incident occurred on April 11, 2013 while a volunteer instructor team was preparing for an evening of instruction. Prior to the class starting, the instructor team was setting up a display that included disassembled firearms, as well as the same models in a functional condition. One the firearms that was going to be used as a teaching aid, was a fully functional (1911. 45 caliber semi-automatic handgun), which was the personal property of a member of the instructor team. Prior to the class starting, a new instructor was interested in the 45 and asked about it. The volunteer, who owned the firearm, took a moment to show the gun to the new instructor and placed his finger on the trigger. Unfortunately, what was assumed to be an unloaded safe firearm, had a chambered round and discharged putting a round into

the classroom wall.

In reviewing this incident, I can honestly say that what happened prior to the firearm being handled is something that routinely happens at firearms classes around the state. An instructor team gathers for an evening class and begins to set up the classroom for the evening's activities. In this case, the teaching focus that evening would be on a review of common action types, including long guns and handguns. To be clear, this falls in line with our program standards.

So What Went Wrong? Unfortunately what clearly went wrong was that a loaded firearm was brought into a classroom by an instructor. In conducting a thorough review we learned that a few days earlier, this firearm

Looking at our data, while this type of an incident is rare, we need to be taking a zero tolerance approach regarding accidental discharges during a Minnesota Firearms Safety class.

had been used at a shooting range. What became clear, was that a basic safety inspection to prove the firearm was safe had not been completed prior to the firearm leaving the range, entering the classroom, as well as when the instructors decided to handle it in the classroom. We learned that the loaded handgun had also been transported in a motor vehicle a couple of times prior to the evening of the

class. It should have been checked to ensure it was unloaded on several occasions but wasn't. This led to the live round being left in the firearm that made its way into the school classroom (lunch room) and being fired.

So What Have We Learned? This incident reinforces that we have to always demonstrate a safety conscious mindset at all times when it comes to handling of firearms during our programs. In looking at our data, while this type of an incident is rare we need to be taking a zero tolerance approach regarding accidental discharges during a Minnesota Firearms Safety class. Firearms entering our classrooms need to be made safe, checked and rechecked to ensure that they are unloaded. Simply put, we all need to be diligent that we are always integrating this basic safety practice into our firearms safety program culture.

Cont. on page 4

**Where Do We Go From Here?** This incident has allowed us to review our program safety standards and policies. We are presently moving forward with reinforcing policies and improvements to our training options. We are going to establish a program standard that requires every instructor team to establish a Range Safety Officer(s), as well as Classroom Safety Officer(s). The person(s) who accepts this role will assume 100% accountability for checking and inspecting all firearms and dummy ammunition that are used in a Firearms Safety class with the focus on ensuring all firearms are safe and empty chamber indicators are installed. This is a practice that we are modeling after the military and law enforcement agencies and we believe communicating clearly that one team member is accountable inspecting firearms will move us forward in ensuring we don't have a similar incident happen again. Secondly, we are going to use YouTube to create training videos that can be viewed online by our volunteer instructor teams. This incident has brought to light that the DNR can better provide

needed refresher training and information using this forum. Please watch for more information on this initiative. Third, we are in the process of setting up instructor forums. We've learned that we need to have an opportunity to share information in a timely fashion as it relates to our program efforts, so we will be setting up time to hear from you what is working and where we can improve. And finally, we need to ensure that we have provided clear direction of visually rendering firearms as safe with chamber checkers and inspecting all dummy rounds used in the classroom and at field days.

I want to assure you that your service as a volunteer is greatly appreciated at all levels of the Department and your local communities. The strength and continued success of our program is clearly tied to your dedication and efforts. All of the staff at Camp Ripley, RTOs and local Conservation Officers are strongly committed to your success and continued success of this very important safety training program.

## **Q & A on Chamber Checkers and Dummy Rounds Policy For Hands-on Firearms Exercise in the Classroom and Field Day.**

Q. What safety steps need to be taken when a firearm is brought to MN FAS Class or field Day?

A. The firearm needs to be inspected and verified that it is unloaded. Once the inspection is complete, an empty chamber indicator is required to be immediately installed on the firearm. Approved empty chamber indicators include trigger or cable locks, weed whip line, chamber flags, or the safety plug that we include in your supplies. Everyone should be able to see that a device has been properly installed on the firearm to indicate the action is open confirming the firearm has been inspected and is unloaded.

Q. Can we still do hands-on firearms loading and unloading exercises with the students in the classroom?

A. YES, During the exercise just remove the empty chamber indicator, complete the exercise with your students and replace the indicator when the exercise is complete. Only approved dummy rounds can be used.

Q. What is required for firearms used for the Field Day live fire exercise?

A. Same as the classroom firearms. Empty chamber indicators must be installed when the firearms are not actually being used by the students for live fire. The blaze orange safety plug that you received in your supplies is specifically designed for .22 caliber firearms and would be a good choice on the range. It's easy to install and remove.

Q. What is required for firearms the students might bring to class or field day?

A. Their firearms must be immediately inspected by the CSO/RSO made safe and an empty chamber checker must be installed. The firearm should be placed in an area where the student does not have access until directed. Also ask the student if they have any ammunition in their possession. If so secure the ammunition or have their parent remove the ammunition from the classroom or field day site.

Q. What is required for dummy rounds used in the classroom or at a field day?

A. Every time dummies are used they must be inspected by the CSO/RSO to insure that they comply with the policy; primer removed and holes drilled in the casing or brass. Explain to your students how to properly identify the dummy rounds they will be using. Students should also verify it's a dummy before loading it in a firearm.





## **2014 IHEA Heritage Hunt contest forms are in the New Hunters Handbook**

***Look for the 22nd Annual Edition that you will find in your supplies. The contest form is on page 69. Keep our lucky streak going....In the past 9 years MN has won 5 times. Please encourage your students and instructor team to fill out the card and mail it in...It could be a group activity as you discuss your class plan or planning a hunt. Don't Forget You Could Be The Next Winner... If you mail it in...?***

**or sign up online at [huntershandbook.com](http://huntershandbook.com)**

**Are you feeling lucky???**  
Register to win your spot on the dream team!  
The IHEA annual Heritage Hunt contest is truly a hunt of a lifetime. You could be a winner!

**tasco**  
ENJOY THE VIEW

**WINNER HERITAGE HUNT**

**IHEA**  
INTERNATIONAL HUNTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

**SGI**  
FIRST FOR HUNTERS

**Cabela's**  
"NATURALLY RESPONSIBLE HUNTER GEAR"

**INDIANHEAD RINCH**

Fill out this form, affix a stamp & mail...that's all there is to it, or log on now to [www.huntershandbook.com](http://www.huntershandbook.com) and enter to win.



### **Self-Certification Process is Going Well**

A big **Thank You!** to all of you who have relayed information to parents and students regarding the new self-certification process. Keep up the good work!!! Thanks to you it's working very well for everyone! We are only getting the occasional call from parents who were unable to print the child's certificate because of a pop-up blocker issue that has now been fixed.

#### **\*\*IMPORTANT REMINDER\*\***

**Tell parents/students that certificates are no longer being mailed to the student !!**  
**They should be able to print their certificate from completing the instructions on the backside of their yellow copy of the self-cert registration form.**

### **Rosters**

Continue to send in the Instructor (A) and Student Rosters (B) as you always have, as we need to enter the information on the students who completed the course. We still need the same information you have always provided us on them: Full Legal Name, Date of Birth, and Current Mailing Address (including Zip Codes!). Without this information on the students, we will not be able to complete our work. Thank you!!

### **2013 Instructor Of the Year Nominations**

We are now accepting 2013 nominations. Please visit the Instructor website to download a nomination form. [www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/instructors/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/instructors/index.html)

**Please call/e-mail Camp Ripley  
and update any change of  
address, phone numbers and  
e-mail address .**

**1-800-366-8917  
[enforcement.education@state.mn.us](mailto:enforcement.education@state.mn.us)  
Thanks**

### **We need more Bow Hunter Education Field Day Instructors**

The Online Course (Today's Bow hunter) and the accompanying Field Day are growing in popularity. Please consider becoming an instructor for the Field Day. The 4 hour Field Day consists of scenarios and archery practice designed to give the novice bow hunter the tools needed to be safe and successful. Contact your RTO for specifics and set a date to become certified.

### **Please Make Field Days Available**

If you are a certified MBEP instructor please consider holding a Field Day(s) in July, Aug, and Sept. These are the months of the highest student demand. Thanks

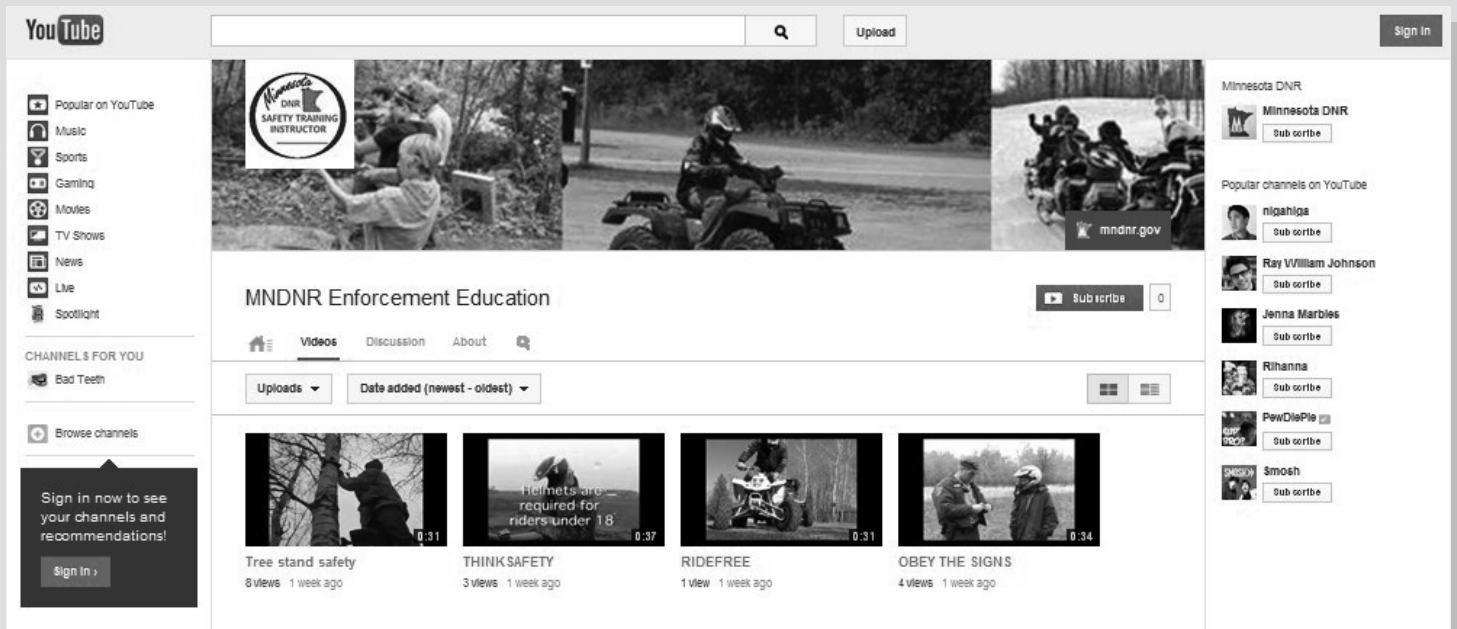


## NOW BROADCASTING INSTRUCTOR TRAINING ON THE INTERNET

Standardized and frequent instructor training opportunities have been difficult to provide because of geography and limited staff. We are always looking for new methods of communications to reach all of our instructors around the state. Most instructors have computer access and the ability to view YouTube. Many programs are utilizing YouTube for training of staff and instructors. We have looked at and evaluated several different broadcasting options and have decided the best way to reach all of our instructors is through our very own channel on YouTube.

Please look for our YouTube channel **MN DNR Enforcement Education**; the page designed to offer training and updates to our volunteer safety instructors. The link to this page is <http://www.youtube.com/user/MNDNRENFeducation> Once you access this link, please subscribe to the page to receive an alert when new material is added to the site.

Technology is at our fingertips and the age of computers and instant knowledge access has been available for several years now. Here at DNR Enforcement Education and Safety training, we wish to take advantage of this new way to reach out to our instructors and share information as time allows for YOU to view at your convenience. Please watch for updates, training videos, and protocols to be added to the channel or subscribe to the channel and receive an alert when a new video is uploaded.



The link to this page is <http://www.youtube.com/user/MNDNRENFeducation>



# CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

for the Nation and Minnesota...Why we teach what we teach...



## International Hunter Education Association Certification Standards

Adopted May 2008, Amended June 2010

### Background

In 1999 the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) adopted a set of performance guidelines for basic hunter education courses. These standards have been used internationally by hunter education administrators to evaluate minimum core content in hunter education courses. Industry partners have used the revised standards to develop new student manuals and alternative delivery methods for hunter education. In the past five years, major advancements in the alternative delivery of hunter education courses has occurred, including home study, internet, CD, workbook, etc. With the added convenience of delivering hunter education through various means, there have been changes in the course curriculum and field day activities.

### Preamble

The purpose of these certification standards is to maintain quality of hunter education regarding the practices and procedures used and accepted within the hunting community. The standards provide a basis for recognition of hunter education student certification. It is not the intent of the International Hunter Education Association to include every practice or procedure that might be desirable or implemented within a hunter education course since the content and delivery of all courses are not identical or uniform.

This set of certification standards is intended to prescribe the minimum body of knowledge necessary to affect safe, legal, and enjoyable hunting. In addition, the proposed certification standards are predicated on reducing risk in hunting based on empirical incident and hunting violation statistics.

**Intended Audience** - These standards were developed by the IHEA for use by hunting education course instructors, hunter education administrators, USFWS Federal Assistance Coordinators, industry and NGO partners, and other interested parties.

**Applicability** – These certification standards apply to hunter education programs. It is recognized that there are different types of hunter education courses, programs and methods of delivery with different target audiences. These standards identify the core topics to be covered in most courses and examinations, and this single set of standards replaces IHEA's 1999 Performance Guidelines. These certification standards refer to all components of a hunter education program, including delivery methods, instruction, tests, supplemental materials, and exams. Hunter education may be presented in various formats, including classroom instruction, home study, video, distance learning, CD-ROM, internet, or any combination of these formats.

**Minimum Standards** - These standards are intended to specify the minimum body of knowledge required to successfully complete a jurisdiction's certification examination. The certification exam should equally measure knowledge regardless of the manner in which it was obtained. Certification testing methods may include written, oral and practical. The certification standards are intended to show just the minimum content of the course materials, not the sequence or organization of the material. Although the standards are organized in a particular way, course/text developers are welcome to organize their information as they prefer. On an annual basis, the IHEA will conduct an annual self-reporting survey identifying which agencies comply with all IHEA Standards. If one state/province challenges another state/province's compliance with the IHEA standards, upon request of either party, the IHEA may mediate and help determine whether the state/province in question meets the IHEA certification standards.

**To view and copy the full standards document go to <http://ihea-usa.org/index.php/hunting-and-shooting/hunter-education/ihea-standards>. All of Minnesota's Firearms Safety Hunter Education certification options meet or exceed the IHEA Standards.**

# National Hunter Education and Bow Hunter Statistics

for Students and Instructors 2010 to 2012

This data was compiled by the IHEA.  
How does Minnesota compare?

USA STATES	HE STUDENTS			HE INSTRUCTORS			BOW STUDENTS			BOW INSTRUCTORS		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
<i>Shaded Names Equal Missing Info./Estimates</i>												
Alabama	13469	14197	14340	750	629	704	35	37	29	12	12	12
Alaska 1841	2347	2383	2382	355	375	909	979	994	900	95	90	90
Arizona	4102	4200	4200	642	650	650	25	23	24	7	7	7
Arkansas	14878	15790	16966	1235	1273	1299	447	385	192	15	15	15
California	21187	25100	32682	700	800	850	110	220	275	35	60	94
Colorado	16000	19272	19765	450	450	450	140	139	160	50	50	57
Connecticut	2407	2400	2400	327	330	330	1481	0	0	0	0	0
Delaware	1223	908	837	112	115	120	50	51	11	3	3	3
Florida	12127	13868	13522	476	387	443	234	260	324	130	130	136
Georgia	13744	11854	13499	898	238	228	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawaii	2466	2092	2778	55	58	65	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	8576	9253	9230	810	850	924	1847	2156	2449	305	330	344
Illinois	17169	19167	19015	1021	1068	1036	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indiana	17000	17500	18000	18000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa	9620	8072	9537	380	375	390	286	212	197	50	40	40
Kansas	8365	9918	10145	801	1275	1340	25	10	38	167	167	167
Kentucky	13002	13000	13000	761	770	770	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louisiana	16007	16725	16188	1270	1404	1492	246	128	34	50	50	25
Maine	5633	5700	5700	700	700	700	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maryland	5999	6766	5704	1000	1000	1032	96	32	96	100	100	98
Massachusetts	3210	3299	3391	350	300	300	582	476	506	60	60	60
Michigan	21399	22945	21507	3100	3294	3050	1850	1847	1876	360	450	490
Minnesota	23112	22007	23288	3964	3562	3333	954	809	755	89	36	48
Mississippi	12000	12000	12000	700	700	700	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri	28078	21014	23258	1370	1370	1390	241	415	537	170	170	175
Montana	6500	6500	6500	900	900	900	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	6201	5314	6556	1311	877	925	1390	1382	1690	350	324	414
Nevada	3207	3348	3473	192	207	232	50	50	50	9	10	16
New Hampshire	1970	2293	2781	460	420	417	1057	1051	1154	300	300	
New Jersey	6049	5967	5936	250	250	250	2614	2461	2635	250	250	250
New Mexico	3301	2676	3291	615	575	526	30	24	39	70	70	72
New York	24000	23872	24952	2600	2600	2600	13000	12098	13119	1200	1200	1200
North Carolina	16720	18675	23865	1030	1024	1096	157	106	112	80	80	
North Dakota	5160	5200	5200	662	670	670	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio	19015	15663	16302	1950	1960	1971	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oklahoma	17475	16770	19618	350	300	350	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon	5138	5300	5300	639	650	650	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	30213	33445	34703	2277	2395	2440	441	277	331	265	265	265
Rhode Island	786	865	915	64	63	62	290	395	427	38	37	36
South Carolina	10276	12091	16269	337	306	316	40	21	5	5	5	5
South Dakota	3689	3668	3335	300	426	320	1645	1519	1446	100	175	101
Tennessee	14908	15397	15786	1112	1109	1197	100	151	26	100	108	106
Texas	41762	41815	43606	2815	2744	2775	498	325	446	111	110	98
Utah	11017	10544	10354	427	368	348	19	90	56	4	10	6
Vermont	3773	3710	3428	182	176	173	852	1630	1672	114	124	121
Virginia	13567	15102	15299	933	939	977	95	421	343	21	37	71
Washington	11641	12137	12202	856	825	809	150	155	160	50	50	53
West Virginia	8314	7056	7382	500	254	231	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin	25586	25019	28537	4803	4400	4167	2492	2258	2277	713	600	523
Wyoming	5668	5077	5435	400	375	393	59	9	18	80	80	87
<b>2012 TOTAL</b>	<b>Students 634,360</b>			<b>Instructors 47,766</b>			<b>Students 34,503</b>			<b>Instructors 5,685</b>		



# Reminders from Ripley/Notices/Special Offers

Please remember that you **MUST** submit your order for supplies at least 30 days prior to the start date of your class. This insures that you will receive your supplies well before the starting date. Please check your supplies immediately upon receipt and notify us if there is something missing.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please remember to check the age of your students prior to the start of your class or field day. They **MUST BE 11 or OLDER!** Several rosters were again received with students who could not lawfully be in the class because they were too young.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please call or e-mail us with any questions or comments that you have. Your comments and suggestions help us to provide better service to you and your students.

\* \* \* \* \*

## WOW!!!

In 2012, 5,986 (25%) of our students were certified in Hunter Education Firearms Safety using the Online Course and Field Day option.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Organization

Please take time to inventory any remaining supplies you have. Organize and determine what you need or don't need for your next supply request.

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## IHEA INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

Over 23 companies can be found on the IHEA web site that offer Instructor Specials on equipment.  
[www.ihea.com](http://www.ihea.com)

### Instructor Organizations

Franklin Flack  
MVSIA Interim President  
Home: 763-323-8601  
Cell: 612-309-9370  
Email: [fflack@comcast.net](mailto:fflack@comcast.net)

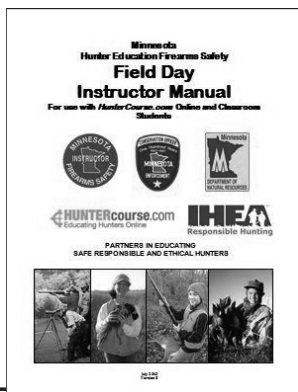
## **IMPORTANT**

### Attention Firearms Safety Independent Study Instructors (18 and Older Course)

The Independent Study Instructor List on our website needs to be updated. Please go to:

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/firearms\\_isa/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/firearms_isa/index.html) and click on the volunteer instructor (pdf) to access the list. Please find your name and verify the information. Email any phone number or email address changes to: [donna.schulz@state.mn.us](mailto:donna.schulz@state.mn.us) If you wish to be removed from the list, please send Donna an email.

If you don't have a copy of the **Field Day Manual** and **Pocket Guide for classroom / online students** contact Camp Ripley. This is the new standard for our youth program training options.



## **IMPORTANT NOTICE Our E-MAIL**

**Address Has Changed  
To:**

[enforcement.education@state.mn.us](mailto:enforcement.education@state.mn.us)

Each Conservation Officer has computer projectors and DVD/VCR players for you to use for your course. Some also come with computers. Please take advantage of this user-friendly equipment. Bring technology to your classroom.

## *More Product Discounts*

### Hunter Safety Systems

Fall Arrest Harness  
1-877-296-3528

Alan Madison Productions DVD/  
Videos 1-877-404-3311

### Henry Repeating Arms Company

.22 rifles both Lever and Bolt action  
718-499-5600 or  
[www.henryrepeating.com](http://www.henryrepeating.com)

Federal Cartridge Company Has  
training aids available for purchase.  
For more info, contact Ryan Bronson  
at 763-323-3872 or

[ryan.bronson@atk.com](mailto:ryan.bronson@atk.com)

## WORD FIND CONTEST WINNERS

The words to find in the previous edition were: Field Day and Teams. Two instructors sent in almost correct number count, 34. Both received a \$10.00 Gander Mtn. Gift Certificate.

Congratulations to:  
Terry Bernier #17467  
Paul Laughton #9065

Thanks to the others who sent in their entry.

\*\*\*\*\*

This edition's 2 find words are:

## **Dummy, Standards**

As you read thru the 12 page newsletter, count the above 2 words.

Five names will be drawn from all correct entries. Send your answer along with your name and instructor number to:

[enforcement.education@state.mn.us](mailto:enforcement.education@state.mn.us)

Only 1 entry per instructor. Entries will close on Oct 4th, 2013.

Reading This Newsletters  
Can Be FUN !!!

# Still the Fastest Growing Most Popular New Sport at a High School Near You.



By the numbers...

**\$256,220,600.00**

dollars estimated lifetime target shooting and hunting related expenditures (\$75,359 from age 16) per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation and 2013 spring league participants (3,400).

**2,000,000**

estimated targets and ammo used in 2013 spring league.

**200,000**

targets thrown and shots fired for practice and competition at the 2013 State Tournament

**125,000**

page views on mnclaytarget.com in May.

**3,400**

student athlete participated in 2013 spring league.

**2014**

year of the Minnesota State High School League as the first state high school athletic association in America to host a sanctioned trapshooting tournament.

**1,868**

student athletes that participated in the 2013 State Tournament.

**1,500**

student athlete participants in 2012 spring league.

**932**

student athlete participants at 2012 State Tournament in Alexandria.

**900**

percent growth of number of participating student athletes since 2010.

**832**

coaches and volunteers that helped teams in 2013.

**215**

participating schools in 2013 spring league.

**115**

high school teams for 2013 spring league.

**79**

percent of participants use 12-gauge shotguns.

**75**

new teams requesting information to join the 2014 spring league.

**58**

gun clubs hosting teams in 2013.

**30**

student athletes participating in 2008.

**16**

percent of 2013 spring league participants are seniors.

**13**

percent of 2013 spring league participants are females.

**5**

minimum number of team members for a team to participate in the league.

**3**

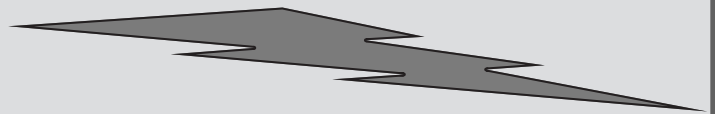
high school teams in 2008.

**1**

sport that boys and girls participate on the same team with the same rules.

**0**

reported injuries or school gun policy violations since 2001.



*As you can see this sport continues to grow around the state.*

*You as instructors are an integral part of this new shooting sport in Minnesota. Before any student can be part of a MSHSCTL Team they must have first completed Firearms Safety Hunter Education.*

*Information on how to start a team and how your students can participate is now included on the back cover of the Student Manual. Please make your students aware of this opportunity. Encourage your local school to become part of this new team sport. Please encourage your local trap range or gun club to become a sponsor for a new team.*

*Many of you are members of Gun Clubs and Sportsmen's clubs that have a standard Trap Range and are providing opportunities for this program in your area.*

*Thanks for your generous support of the MSHSCTL.*

# MN DNR Firearms Safety Course Evaluation Underway

The DNR is currently conducting an evaluation of the firearms safety hunter education course to determine strengths and opportunities for improvement. The evaluation is part of a larger departmental continuous improvement effort that intends to keep the department forward-thinking about how to maintain and enhance high quality public service.

Research began in February of 2013, and will continue through the fall. The initial scope of the evaluation was to compare online and classroom courses for knowledge retention. However, a thorough review of the scientific literature found there to be no important difference in knowledge retention between online and classroom education. Because of this finding, agency evaluators decided a more effective evaluation approach would be to focus on student satisfaction and overall areas for improvement.

As a result, independent DNR researchers conducted five focus groups with volunteer instructors in April and May of 2013. Three were held in Elk River and two in Grand Rapids. Focus groups were used to obtain valuable feedback from active instructors about course format and operations, instructor development, and DNR support.

Secondly, a mail survey of recent firearms safety students within the past year is currently being distributed. Survey questions differ based on student age and course format (e.g. adult classroom, adult online, youth classroom, youth online). The goal of the survey is to receive detailed student feedback about their experience with the firearms safety course.

A public report will be available early 2014. Evaluators recognize the hard work and dedication hunter education staff and volunteer instructors contribute to the program every day. The evaluation is intended to make the program work better for everyone. For questions about the evaluation, please contact Arielle Courtney at [Arielle.courtney@state.mn.us](mailto:Arielle.courtney@state.mn.us) or 651-259-5539.

This is the first comprehensive study of Minnesota's Firearm Safety Hunter Education since the IHEA Peer Review in 2008. The Department is looking forward to the results. Lots of change has taken place with delivery of our education programs over the past 5 years. This program is a cornerstone of the Department's statutorily mandated education programs.

## National Ammunition Shortage Impact on Hunter Education

Hunter Education is not immune from the shortage of .22 ammo. Minnesota and many other States that have live-fire as part of their program are experiencing difficulty obtaining .22 ammo and have been forced to reduce or suspend live fire. Our program fires approximately 350,000 to 400,000 rounds a year. We typically order 500,000 rounds each year. This spring I saw a CCI video about their .22 production, they have a capacity to produce and package 4 million rounds a day. Our order is equal to 1/8th of their daily production. Right now we still have not seen last year's order. Our contract suppliers are working hard to get us ammo but have no concrete answers as to when our order will be manufactured and shipped. However, we still have enough .22 ammo to get us through the fall class season. Please do your best to keep the rounds fired per student at 15. We should see our 2012 order arrive sometime in September. We have already placed another order for 2013/2014 delivery.

\*If anyone has a contact for acquiring CCI Quiet .22 ammo, please give Capt. Hammer a call. This round has proven very valuable at noise and lead sensitive areas around the metro. He can't find a reliable source and we need 2-3 cases ASAP....





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Division of Enforcement, Education Section  
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Fax: 320-616-2517  
New e-mail address  
[enforcement.education@state.mn.us](mailto:enforcement.education@state.mn.us)

***Modeling safe, responsible, &  
ethical behaviors for hunters***

**[www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov)**

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## Websites and Information

**Instructor Web Page:** [www.mndnr.gov/safety/instructors/index.html](http://www.mndnr.gov/safety/instructors/index.html) -  
Order Supplies and Register Classes online and sign-up for GovDelivery messages

### Visit these other websites on the Internet

Ranges in Minnesota: [www.mndnr.gov/shooting\\_ranges](http://www.mndnr.gov/shooting_ranges)  
Ducks Unlimited: [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)  
NBEF: [www.nbef.org](http://www.nbef.org)  
NSSF: [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org)  
MDHA: [www.mndeerhunters.com](http://www.mndeerhunters.com)  
Pheasants Forever: [www.pheasantsforever.org](http://www.pheasantsforever.org)  
Ruffed Grouse Society: [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org)  
Safari Club: [www.sci-dc.org](http://www.sci-dc.org)  
NWTF: [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)  
Adaptive Equipment for Disabled Hunters: [www.disabledhunters.org](http://www.disabledhunters.org)  
Izaak Walton League: [www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org)  
Ducks at a Distance Waterfowl ID Guide: [www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/tools/ducklist/index.htm](http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/tools/ducklist/index.htm)  
Bird Wing ID: <http://digitalcollections.usps.edu/>  
Turn in Poachers: [www.turninpoachers.org](http://www.turninpoachers.org)  
IHEA: [www.ihea.com](http://www.ihea.com)  
To access the volunteer discussion section of the IHEA website, go to [www.ihea.com](http://www.ihea.com) –  
Username is **volunteer** and the password is **huntsafe**.  
To access instructor's resource section of the IHEA website, go to [www.ihea.com](http://www.ihea.com), click on Instructor Resource.  
The Username is **instructor** and the Password is **gohunt\_**

For Videos and DVD's, Alan Madison Productions, Inc., call toll free at 1-877-404-3311 or [www.alanmadison.com](http://www.alanmadison.com).  
Daisy Lazer Ed Training Rifles – call Customer Service at 800-713-2479 or go to [www.daisy.com](http://www.daisy.com).

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