



**State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N • Olympia, WA 98501-1091 • (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building • 1111 Washington Street SE • Olympia, WA

Keep Your Vision On Target

Good vision is an important component of safe hunting. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has entered a new partnership with the Optometric Physicians of Washington (OPW) to offer hunters with a valid Washington hunting license a free visual acuity screening at participating optometrist locations across the state. This offer is completely voluntary; there is no requirement to participate.

Interested hunters can find a participating area optometrist by visiting the Optometric Physicians of Washington (OPW) web site at www.eyes.org. Click on the "Hunters Vision Screening" section at that web site, type in the first two digits (e.g., 98 or 99) of the local zip code and obtain a complete list of participating optometrists.

Lt. Eric Anderson, WDFW hunter education coordinator, observes, "Hunting today in Washington State is a very safe activity, but it's also an activity that can be made safer still. Even one hunting incident is one too many." According to Lt. Anderson's review of WDFW hunting incident data between 1978 and 2008, statistics bear out the safety importance of this new vision care program:

- 45% of all hunting Washington hunting incidents were vision-related.
- 20+% of victims in hunting incidents were shot by fellow hunters pursuing game birds.
- 10% of victims in hunting incidents were mistaken for game by fellow hunters.

Local hunting license vendors are now offering interested hunters a special postcard to take to participating OPW locations. The voluntary visual screening will help hunters identify if their visual acuity meets or falls below the state standard for drivers. Neither WDFW nor OPW will retain any records to insure complete patient confidentiality and privacy for participating hunters.

For more information about the vision care program please visit to the OPW web site, the WDFW agency web site at wdfw.wa.gov, or contact hunter education staff at huntered@dfw.wa.gov.