

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

85 Industrial Tract
Hudson, NY 12534
24 Hr Dispatch (518)828-3344
Fax (518)828-9088



Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID P. Bartlett

Contact: Lieutenant Wayne Lopez
(518) 828-0601 Ext. 1404

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 20, 2014

SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATES HUNTING ACCIDENT IN COPAKE

Copake, NY- Columbia County Sheriff David P. Bartlett reports that on Saturday, October 18 at approximately 6:41pm, Deputy Kelly Briscoe was assigned by Columbia County 911 to assist Community Rescue Squad who had been dispatched for a report of a hunter who had been shot in the legs with an arrow, in a wooded area behind 2934 County Route 7 in the Town of Copake.

The victim, 52 year old Brett Minney of Brimfield Massachusetts, was located in the woods after being shot by an arrow through his lower legs. Brett Minney was hunting deer on private property with his father, 79 year old David Minney of Ware Massachusetts. Columbia County 911 was contacted for emergency response. The Craryville Fire Department responded to the scene and set up a landing zone for Community Rescue Squad on the property and the victim was airlifted to Albany Medical Center for treatment.

The preliminary investigation shows that the two men were hunting from tree stands, which were approximately 75 feet away from each other. Brett Minney had climbed down from his stand and started walking through the woods. The arrow that struck him was in fact shot by his father. This hunting accident is still under investigation and there are no criminal charges at this time.

Sheriff Bartlett would like to remind all hunters to be aware of your target and what's beyond it. Positive target identification is a must. To shoot at something you only think is a legal target is gambling. In the case of human injury, that means gambling with human life. You must be absolutely certain and correct in judgment before deciding to shoot. In addition to identifying the target, a hunter must know that a safe backstop for their

~ MORE ~

bullet is present in every shooting situation. We don't always hit our target, and, in some cases, the bullet or in this case arrow passes through the target. A safe backstop guarantees that no one will get hurt.

On the scene investigating in addition to Deputy Sheriff Briscoe were Captain John DeRocha, Sergeant Eli Fieser, and Investigator Patrick Logue. The Sheriff's Office was also assisted on the scene by Environmental Conservation Officer Brinkerhoff and the New York State Police.