

Police: Coyote hunter shoots 21-year-old in Williamston after mistaking him for animal

Kara Berg, Lansing State Journal Published 9:41 a.m. ET April 27, 2020 | Updated 4:26 p.m. ET April 27, 2020

Editor's note: Because of incorrect information provided by the Ingham County Sheriff's Office, the time of the shooting was not accurate in an earlier version of this story.

WILLIAMSTON — A 21-year-old man was shot in the chest in Williamston by a coyote hunter who mistook him for the animal he was searching for, police said.

Ingham County Sheriff's Office Capt. Greg Harris said four teenagers were hunting coyotes just before midnight Friday when one of them, a 19-year-old Mason man, mistook the 21-year-old for a coyote and shot him.

The 19-year-old had shot a coyote and was looking for it using night vision equipment, Harris said. He is licensed to hunt coyotes in Michigan, Department of Natural Resources 1st Lt. Andrew Turner said.

LSJ.

Help the Lansing State Journal continue to provide in-depth reporting like this. **[Find our latest subscription options and special offers here.](https://offers.lansingstatejournal.com/specialoffer)** (<https://offers.lansingstatejournal.com/specialoffer>)

The 21-year-old was walking on the railroad tracks near Meech Road and Grand River Avenue when he was shot. The two men did not know each other, Harris said.

"He was in the wrong place at the wrong time," Harris said.

The man was alert and talking to police before he was taken to the hospital, Harris said. His injuries were not life-threatening. He said he was walking from Williamston to Webberville to visit someone.

The sheriff's office has turned the investigation over to the DNR because the shooting was hunting-related. Turner said they will forward the report to the prosecutor's office once the investigation is complete.

The 19-year-old was with three other teenagers, two who are 18 and one who is 16, Harris said. The three teenagers are from Williamston.