



SHERIFF
MIKE PRENDERGAST



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sabal Pipeline Shooting leads to chase - Suspect deceased; all deputies are safe

(Sunday, February 26, 2017) Deputies are on scene at the crash location on U.S Highway 41, south of Floral Park Drive, Floral City, where a chase that began in northern Citrus County ended here with the alleged suspect being shot and killed. It all began this morning at approximately 9am in Marion County who received reports of an individual shooting at the Sabal Pipeline equipment and the pipeline itself, with what was described as a high power rifle.

The shooter fled the area and a pursuit began in Citrus County on Highway 200. Citrus County deputies pursued the suspect along with the Florida Highway Patrol. The suspect was involved in a crash on the side of the road adjacent to the Floral City Park. This is where the suspect engaged the deputies and was subsequently shot and killed. The name of the suspect is not being released at this time pending notification of the suspect's next of kin. As per CCSO policy and protocol, the officers involved will be placed on administrative leave while the Florida Department of Law Enforcement actively investigates this incident.

Names of the officers involved are being withheld at this time due to the pending inquiry by FDLE. "We know that the suspect was armed and extremely dangerous, and pending the examination of the evidence at the scene, we will be able to determine what other weapons he had in his possession at the time of the shooting. Fortunately, none of our Citrus County Deputies, Marion County Deputies or Florida Highway Patrol Troopers were injured as a result of this crime." said Citrus County Sheriff Mike Prendergast.

More information will be released on Monday.