



CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

**SHERIFF
MIKE PRENDERGAST**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff's Office Releases Names of Deputies Involved in Fatal Shooting

On Sunday, Feb. 26, deputies responded to an "active shooter" incident that started in Marion County but led Citrus deputies through Citrus County on Hwy 41 through Hernando, Inverness and then ended in Floral City. The suspect, James Leroy Marker, 66, of 150 Smallwood Dr., Chokoloskee, FL, who was killed following a confrontation with law enforcement, caused extensive damage to a section of the Sabal Pipeline in Marion County before fleeing into Citrus County.

The Florida Highway Patrol responded to assist. Before reaching Floral Park, the CCSO deployed stop strips in Inverness, which did impair Marker's driving ability. The FHP officer was then able to conduct a precision immobilization technique near Floral Park, which caused both vehicles to come to rest along the east shoulder of the roadway.

Marker then engaged with law enforcement officers before being fired upon by Citrus deputies and an officer from FHP. Nature Coast EMS responded and the suspect was pronounced dead on scene.

Although the situation was extremely volatile and dangerous, no one other than Marker was injured. A number of CCSO deputies responded to the incident, but those involved in the shooting were: Det. Jason Strickland, Dep. Gabriel Gerena and Dep. Jericho McIntyre. All three officers have been placed on paid administrative leave per CCSO policy regarding an officer-involved shooting incident. FDLE handles all officer-related shootings for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office.

"We're again very thankful that no one else was injured during this extremely dangerous incident," Sheriff Mike Prendergast said today. "We're giving FDLE time to complete a thorough investigation to determine exactly what happened. However, from what I've seen, all parties involved acted with extreme professionalism when faced with an imminent threat. All of the agencies involved worked extremely well together during a time of great stress. Our community should be proud of the actions of those who stopped an unprecedented threat."

No further details will be released related to this incident until FDLE's investigation is complete.



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#17004/ Sabal Pipeline Fatal Shooting