



DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT Environmental Crimes Unit

**Captain Chad Paul
Lieutenant Donteris Andrews
Lieutenant Kevin Beckman**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
OER All-Staff | June 21, 2022



Fun Fact

FDEP is the oldest State Law Enforcement agency in Florida...tracing its roots back to the creation of 1913 Shellfish Commission.





Environmental Law Enforcement in Florida





ECU Transfers

2012

- 90 FDEP Park Police Officers their vehicles, boats, & ATVs and specialized equipment.
- 38 Environmental Investigators merged w/ FWC Law Enforcement.
- Law Enforcement Support Staff.

2019

- Governor DeSantis transferred 19 Environmental Crimes Unit positions back to FDEP (18 Sworn, 1 GOC).





DLE Environmental Crimes Unit

- Director, 18 Sworn Law Enforcement Officers, as defined by Florida Statute 943.10.
- DLE Special Agents are duly certified with full Powers of Arrest and the authority to carry firearms.
- Special Agents have fully equipped police vehicles.





- Special Agents have the authority to enforce Florida traffic laws where the public has a right to travel by motor vehicle, Florida Statute 316.640.
- Special Agents must comply with all initial and ongoing law enforcement training standards mandated by FDLE/CJSTC.





DLE Environmental Crimes Unit Chain of Command



DLE DIRECTOR

CAPTAIN

South FL Lieutenant

North FL Lieutenant

7 SPECIAL AGENTS

8 SPECIAL AGENTS
1 RESERVE AGENT



DLE Special Agent AORs





Complaint Sources For Environmental Crimes

- State Warning Point
- FWC Dispatch
- DEP Office of Emergency Response
- DEP Regulatory
- Wildlife Alerts
- Citizens (calling DEP directly)
- Local Code Enforcement
- Local Law Enforcement
- US EPA – Criminal Investigations Division
- Law Enforcement Intelligence sources
- Social Media



DLE Environmental Crime Case Criteria

- Significant threat to public safety or welfare.
- Significant real or potential environmental impact.
- History of non-compliance by violator.
- Economic gain/organized crime.
- Aggravated circumstances (concealment of misconduct, tampering/falsification, high profile/media attention).





Common Environmental Crimes

- Commercial/Criminal Level Dumping
- Waste Tire Violations
- Hazardous Waste
- Illicit Discharges of Pollutants/Oil
- Sewage Dumping
- Bio-Medical Waste
- Nuisances Injurious to Health
- Wetlands Violations
- Abandoned/Dumped Drums
- Prohibited Burning
- Natural Features Violations
- Archaeological Crimes
- Solid Waste





DEP's Division of Law Enforcement: Environmental Crimes Unit

July 1, 2020-June 29, 2021

ECU
 FY
 2020 -
 2021
 Activity

Incident/Investigation Type	Totals
Littering	761
Hazardous Waste	84
Oil/Pollutant	412
Industrial Waste	73
Bio-medical Waste	14
Domestic Waste	205
Waste Tire Site/Dumped Waste Tires	168
Waste Tire Hauler	153
Abandoned Drums	9
Illegal Burning	171
Mangrove Cutting	53
Deadhead Logging	22
Natural Features Violation	142
Shoreline Alteration	92
Potable Waste	42
Suspicious Vehicle Stops	49
Air Program	40
Special Detail	40
Targeted Enforcement	18
Surveillance	218
Investigative Follow-Up	1453
Background/Internal Investigations	21
Site Remediation Follow-Up	62
Other	330
Incident/Investigation Total	4632

Complaints/Calls for Service	Totals
State Warning Point	424
FDEP Regulatory	370
FWC Dispatch	333
City/County Agency	345
State Agency	136
Federal Agency	16
Website Submission	1
Public	98
Other	436
Complaints Total	2159

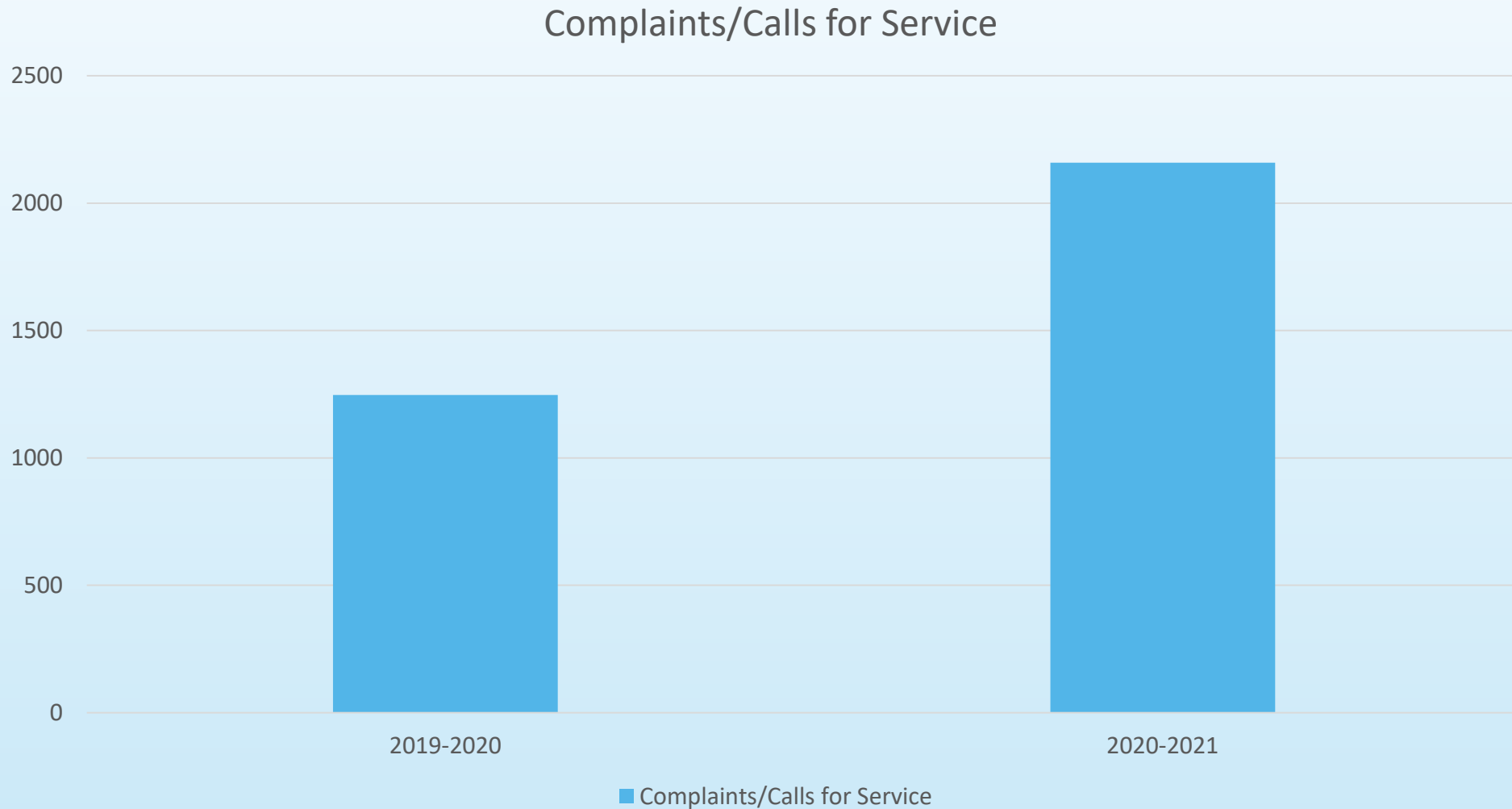
Alternate Activity	Totals
Court/State Attorney Events	265
Outreach	223
Training Days	262
Task Force Attendance	78
Agent Training/ Interview /NEO	305
Alternate Activity Total	1133

Patrol Hours	Totals
LEO Investigative Patrol Hour	25085.5
Assisting Other Agency Hours	300.5
Patrol Hour Total	25386

Enforcement/Disposition	Totals
Warning	442
Infraction	8
Misdemeanor	148
Felony	37
Direct File/Capias	17
Civil/Regulatory	188
Warrant Arrest	2
UTC	20
Unfounded	250
Other (Specify) No Action	653
No Violation	1517
Enforcement/Disposition Total	3282



DLE Environmental Crimes Unit 2019-2020 vs. 2020-2021





Environmental Crimes

Motives

- Economic – profits (or cost avoidance).
- Laziness – save time and effort.
- Egotistical – above law.
- Sociopath – operates within own perception of reality.



DLE General Investigations

- Short term.
- Misdemeanor-Felony.
- Use of common investigative techniques.
- May be handled w/ Citation, NTA, or Physical Arrest.
- May involve other LE or local gov agencies.





DLE Complex Investigations

- Long term.
- Extensive evidence or environmental impact.
- Activity crosses county lines
- Use of technical/advanced investigative techniques
- Use of Confidential Informants
- Use of Search Warrants/Subpoenas
- Frequently beyond the capabilities and/or scope of local law enforcement
- Often require the expertise of subject matter experts



07/31/2012



DLE Assisting other Divisions

- State & DEP Dignitary Protection Details.
- Natural & Manmade Disaster Deployments.
- Special Details in Florida State Parks.





Environmental Crimes Unit

- ECU Escort of critical state experts from Tallahassee to Manatee Co. during the Governor's emergency order for Piney Point.





Waste Tires – Manatee County





Environmental Crimes Unit





Environmental Crimes Unit





Environmental Crimes Unit





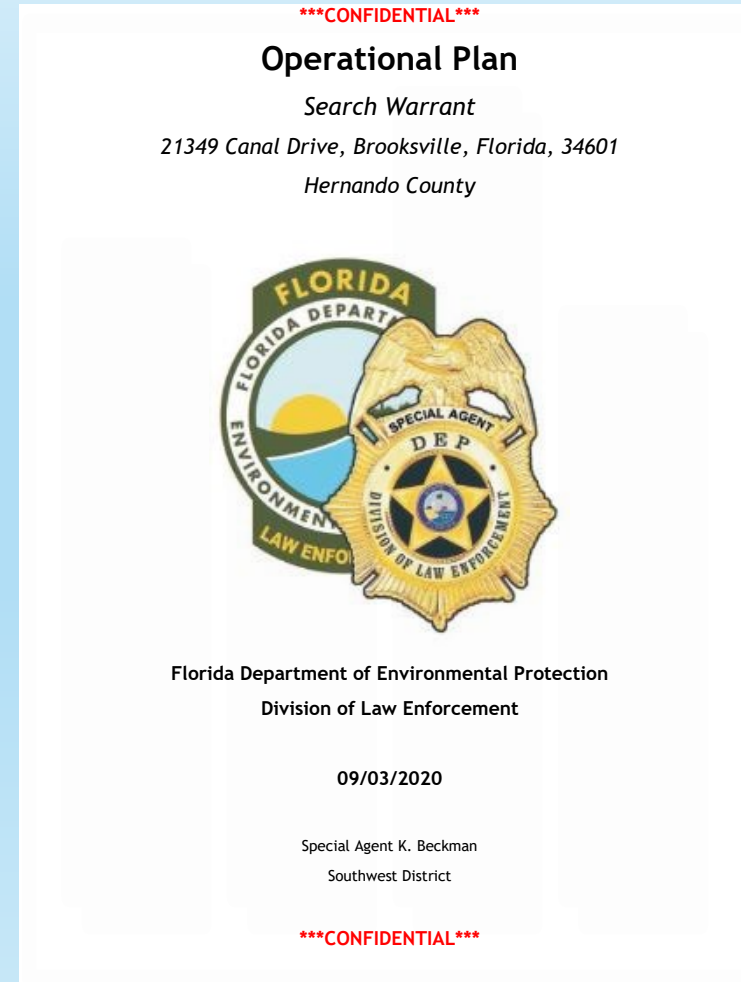
Environmental Crimes Unit





Environmental Crimes Unit

- Initial Investigation.
- Interviews.
- Suspect developed.
- Surveillance.
- Worked with Hernando Co. Sheriff's Ofc Intel. Section.
- Search Warrant applied for and granted by Judge.
- Search Warrant Plan developed and approved.
- Warrant Briefing.
- Warrant Served.
- 240 Waste Tires located.
- Warrant led to alternate site w 4500 waste tires and arrest of suspect





Serving Search Warrants





Investigations

Tires, tires,
tires...

...with a
surprise





ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES UNIT

- Subject found living in a tent within waste tire piles at location.
- 2 Active Warrants for FTA for criminal traffic charges.





Environmental Crimes Unit

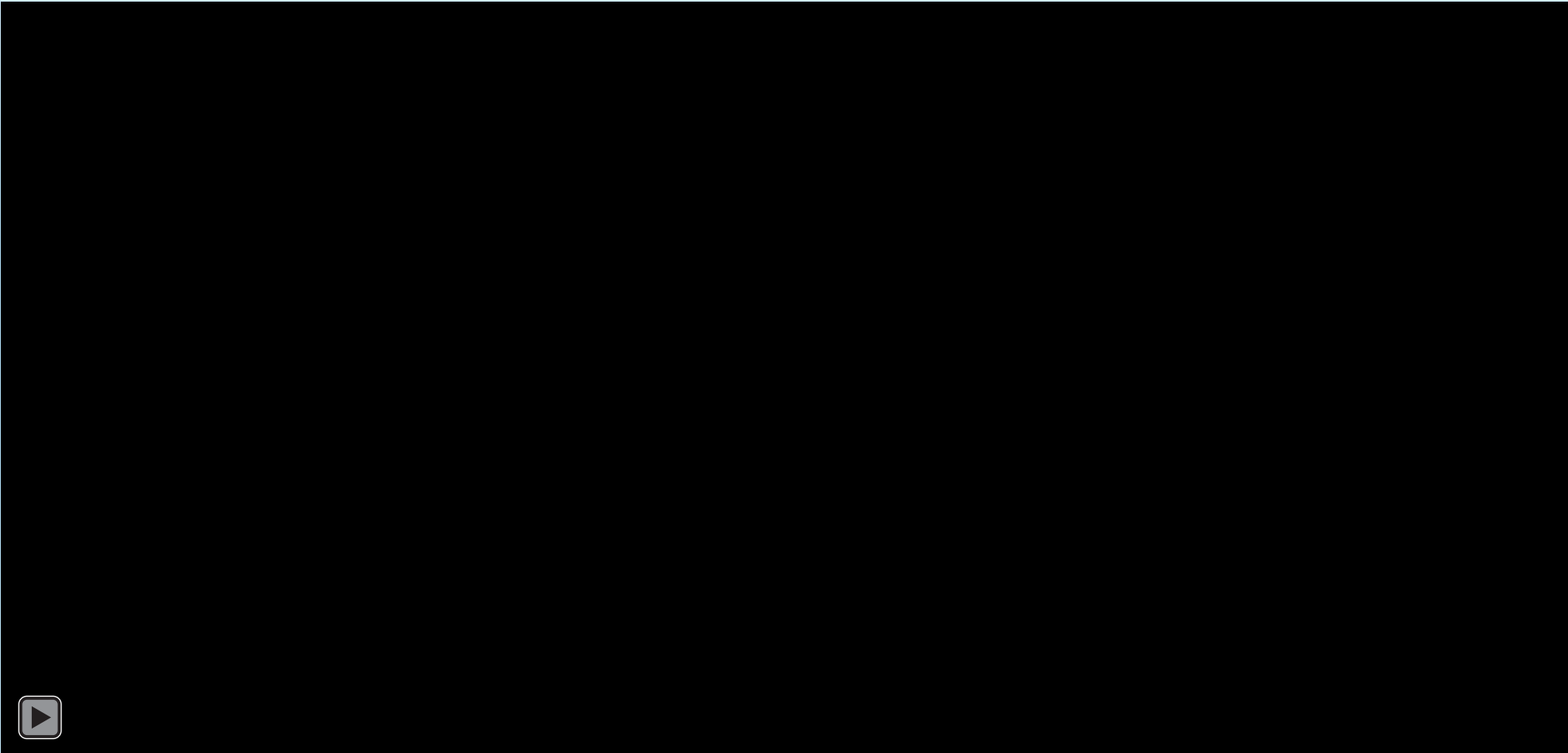
- Arrested for several environmental crimes.
- Drug user.
- Provided locations where methamphetamine and fentanyl were being distributed in the community.
- Worked with the State Attorney's Office and the local Narcotics Unit to develop subject as an informant.
- Failed to appear and now he is on the run.



**WANTED
PERSON**



Surveillance





Surveillance





Surveillance





Surveillance



Suspect arrested and booked into Duval County Jail for:

- 2 Counts Felony/ Commercial Dumping.
- 2 Counts Nuisance Injurious to Health.



Surveillance





Environmental Crimes Unit



Individual

RONDON DUARTE, JOSE RUBEN



Booking Number: 2020-27315

Arrest Date: 12/02/2020

SOID: 00933626

SOID Name: RONDON DUARTE, JOSE

Arrest Age: 33

DOB: 08/13/1987

POB: CC

Current Age: 33

Sex: M

Race: W

Ethnicity: H

Eyes: BRO

Hair: BRO

Height: 5'07

Weight: 180

Build: M



Arrest Status



Environmental Crimes Unit

Fuel Dumping – Hernando Co.





Environmental Crimes Unit

Fuel Dumping – Hernando Co.

- Suspect refloated sunken vessel.
- Intentionally drained contaminated fuel into yard.
- Fuel flowed across roadway adjacent to aquatic preserve.





Environmental Crimes Unit Fuel Dumping – Hernando Co.

- Search Warrant obtained by ECU.
- Warrant served. Criminal Forensics samples taken by OER SWD.
- Suspect arrested by ECU and booked into the Hernando Co. Jail for Causing Pollution – Willfully - 3rd Degree Felony 5yr/\$5000.





DEP Law Enforcement is like a box a Chocolates.....

- **DUI.**
- **Possession of Meth, Marijuana, Illegal Possession of Prescription Drugs.**
- **Fleeing to Elude.**
- **Carrying Concealed Weapons (Firearms).**
- **Possession of Stolen Property.**
- **Felons in Possession of Firearms.**
- **Child Abuse.**
- **Threatening Public Officials.**
- **Making Bomb Threat or Threat to do Violence.**
- **Risk Protection Orders.**
- **Driving while License Suspended or Revoked.**
- **Habitual Traffic Offender.**
- **Possession of Human Remains.**



Threats to FDEP – Citizen angry about FDEP’s handling of Piney Point Emergency.



ECU Response

- **FDEP SWD secured and evacuated by ECU and local law enforcement - 10am.**
- **Immediate investigation.**
- **Suspect identified, located, arrested, and booked into the Hillsborough Co. Jail by ECU at 7pm that evening.**
- **Risk Protection Order initiated. All suspect's weapons seized through court order.**



ECU Response



Information/Intelligence Bulletin

Florida Environmental Crimes Unit
13051 N. Telecom Parkway, Temple Terrace, FL 33637
<https://floridadep.gov/>

Bulletin: 2021-000082 Date: 04/06/2021

Situational Awareness: OFFICER SAFETY



Name: CHAD RYAN LYNCH
DOB: 03/06/1986 **Age:** 35
Race/Sex: White/Male
Eyes: Blue **Hair:** Brown
Wgt: 200 **Hgt:** 6'03 **Bld:** Slender
DL #: Florida – L520-116-86-086-0
LKA: 10710 Estates Del Sol Drive, Riverview, Hillsborough County, FL. 33579

REGISTERED VEHICLES/VESSELS:

2001, White, Ford, Truck – Florida tag: TFI9R
2017, White, Nissan, Van – Florida tag: GJXN10
1980, UNK, 14', Open Motorboat, Fiberglass/Wood – FL6721GW

On April 5th, 2021 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) staff in Tallahassee received 14 voicemails from an individual who was angry about FDEP's handling of the Piney Point environmental emergency occurring in Manatee County. The voicemails contained numerous threats to commit extremely violent acts against FDEP employees and facilities in the Tampa area.

Upon receipt of the threatening voicemails by the FDEP Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU), immediate protective measures were implemented by ECU to preserve the safety of FDEP employees and facilities. A criminal investigation was immediately launched by FDEP ECU.

The investigation identified Chad Ryan Lynch, age 35, of Riverview, Florida as the suspect responsible for the threatening voicemails.

On April 5th, 2021 ECU Southwest Special Agents located Mr. Lynch in Riverview, FL. Mr. Lynch was taken into custody and arrested without incident. He was booked into the Hillsborough County Jail and charged with:

- F.S. 838.021 Corruption by Threat Against Public Servant - 3rd-Degree Felony, punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine.



Threats to FDEP Suspect Charges:

- **F.S. 838.021 Corruption by Threat Against Public Servant - 3rd-Degree Felony, punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine.**
- **F.S. 790.163 False Report About Planting Bomb, Explosive, Weapon of Mass Destruction, or Concerning the Use of Firearms in a Violent Manner Against Persons -2nd-Degree Felony, punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and/or \$10,000 fine.**
- **F.S. 934.215 Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communications Device - 3rd Degree Felony, punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine.**
- **ECU worked with OGC on a Risk Protection Order. Judge granted RPO – all suspect’s firearms seized.**



Threats to FDEP



NOV 25 2008



DLE Environmental Forensics – Evidence Collection, Analytical Support, and Chain of Custody





OER and ECU





OER and ECU





DLE Environmental Crimes Unit Contacts

- **STATEWIDE – Captain Chad Paul**
 - 813-743-5048 chad.paul@floridadep.gov
- **NORTH SQUAD - Lieutenant Donteris Andrews**
 - 850-274-7633 donteris.andrews@floridadep.gov
 - Northwest District
 - Northeast District
 - Central District
- **SOUTH SQUAD - Lieutenant Kevin Beckman**
 - 850-597-4379 kevin.beckman@floridadep.gov
 - Southwest District
 - Southeast District
 - South District



Questions?

Chad Paul

Division of Law Enforcement
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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