



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Sheriff Introduces New Program – S.A.F.E. - Situational Awareness Firearms Education (Firearms Training for the Legally Armed Citizen)

Date: June 27, 2019

Sheriff Al Nienhuis is pleased to introduce a new firearms training program, SAFE, exclusively for the legally armed Hernando County citizen.

In Hernando County, there are currently over 21,500 citizens who, are permitted to possess concealed weapons via F.S. 790.02. With that being said, it is in the public's best interest for citizens who are legally armed to also be "armed" with basic knowledge and skills related to possessing firearms. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office training unit has created a one-day course entitled **Situational Awareness Firearms Education**.

This interactive course, available exclusively to Hernando County residents who are current concealed weapon permit-holders, will be offered by the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. The course will provide participants with a wide array of information, training, and skill development. Topics will include, but will not be limited to: mental preparedness, stand your ground laws, firearms safety, concealment, stance, grip, sight alignment, force escalation/de-escalation, and many more. Participants will utilize their personally owned firearm as part of this course.

The course will be made available on a first come, first served basis and will be limited to 24 participants per session.

Sessions will be offered monthly, on Fridays.

Participants will be required to supply proof of residency, proof of current concealed weapon permit, and must also submit to a background check.

Participants must supply/bring a personally owned handgun and 100 rounds of factory ammunition (reloads are not permitted). The only handguns that are permitted are as follows: .38 caliber, 9mm, 40 caliber, .380 caliber, and 45 caliber (all handguns must pass inspection by an HCSO firearms instructor). **No other firearms will be permitted.**

Cost for the course is \$100, which must be paid at the time of registration. Payment must be made via PayPal – no cash or checks will be accepted.

Please keep an eye on the HCSO Facebook page, local media, and the HCSO website for the dates/times of upcoming sessions.

Loaded firearms are not permitted on Sheriff's Office property. Prior to arrival on training day, participants should unload their firearms and render them safe. All firearms and ammunition should be stored in trunks of vehicles. **Once at the firing range**, participants will be advised when to safely load their firearms.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.