



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Man Treated for Accidental Gunshot Wound During H.R. 218 Firearms Qualification Course Hosted by FCSO

BUNNELL, Fla. — On the afternoon of Oct. 16, a retired law enforcement officer participating in an H.R. 218 firearms qualification course, which was hosted by the Flagler County Sheriff's Office at the Flagler Gun & Archery Club, sustained an accidental gunshot wound to the leg while holstering his firearm.

Deputies on scene immediately treated the victim, a 75-year-old man, by applying a tourniquet until Flagler County Fire Rescue arrived and took over treatment. Due to the victim's age and the application of the tourniquet, he was transported by FCFR's FireFlight helicopter to Halifax Health Medical Center of Daytona Beach for further treatment.

Preliminary review of the incident indicates the victim had his finger inside the trigger guard while holstering, causing the gun to discharge a single round that went through his leg. His injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

The FCSO Major Case Unit responded to the range and is investigating the accident. FCSO will also conduct a separate internal review of the incident to ensure all safety measures were followed.

"While this is an unfortunate incident, because the range is in a remote part of Flagler County, our deputies overseeing the annual qualification are highly trained and carry trauma kits. Accidents can happen but our deputies did exactly what they were trained to do to treat the victim's injury until emergency medical services could arrive," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "We wish the retiree a full and quick recovery."

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The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, often referred to as H.R. 218, allows qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms in any jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of state or local laws, with some exceptions. H.R. 218 also requires an annual qualification.

FCSO hosts an H.R. 218 firearms qualification course during the spring and fall of each year. The course required is the Florida Department of Law Enforcement 38-round course. Each qualified retiree is required to provide the firearm they plan to carry and their own ammunition along with their holster, eye protection, and ear protection. They are also required to sign a release of liability and rules of the range to participate.

“We offer this course as a thank you to nearby retired law enforcement officers for their service,” Sheriff Staly added.

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