

From: [Seminole SO Public Affairs](#)
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Subject: NEWS RELEASE: SCSO assists Florida Sheriffs Task Force in Operation Dry Spring 2015
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NEWS RELEASE

SCSO assists Florida Sheriffs Task Force in Operation Dry Spring 2015

Seminole Co., Fla. (May 7, 2015) – The Seminole County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), in conjunction with the Florida Sheriffs Task Force, has concluded a four week operation aimed at protecting youth in Florida. Operation Dry Spring 2015 focused on preventing underage youth from purchasing and using alcohol, tobacco and various forms of synthetic drugs. This operation was timed to coincide with the Spring Break season, when many youth experiment with drugs and alcohol.

From March 16 to April 12, agents with the City County Investigative Bureau (CCIB) focused on underage youth in possession of alcohol, tobacco or synthetic drugs as well as businesses selling these substances to underage youth. During the operation, 23 adults were arrested for selling alcohol and tobacco products to minors. Nine juveniles were arrested for possession of alcohol, drugs, and drug paraphernalia. CCIB agents also completed 145 business checks in stores to check for synthetic drugs and ensure employees were checking customers' identification prior to selling alcohol or tobacco products and . Agents found no synthetic drugs available for purchase in Seminole County.

One of the men arrested for underage alcohol sales during the operation, Ronald Persaud, 29, of Sanford, was in a pre-trial diversion program for committing the same offense in 2014. On March 25, Persaud failed to ask for identification from a 19-year-old customer and then sold him an alcoholic beverage.

According to the Florida Sheriffs Association, each year more than 1,800 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die from unintentional, alcohol-related injuries. At the heart of Operation Dry Spring 2015 was the goal of preventing potential emergency-related incidents linked to alcohol and drug use. In 2011, nearly 190,000 individuals under the age of 21 visited an emergency room for injuries or conditions connected to underage drinking. In addition, the use of synthetic drugs such as bath salts and spice is rising, with more than 7,000 reported incidents in 2011, compared to some 3,000 in 2010.

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