



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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SLED INVESTIGATING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING IN OCONEE COUNTY

Agents from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division are investigating an incident from Monday in which shots were exchanged during a confrontation between an armed man and deputies from the Oconee County Sheriff's Office. Deputies were in the process of initiating a traffic stop when a vehicle pursuit ensued. The suspect fired at deputies several times during the pursuit which expanded into Pickens County. The suspect abandoned his vehicle, fled on foot and remains at large. No injuries have been reported.

The suspect has been identified as Christopher Lee O'Donald of Seneca by law enforcement. A warrant for his arrest has been issued by SLED.

SLED conducts law enforcement officer involved shooting (OIS) investigations at the request of the agency involved in the incident. When requested to investigate an OIS, SLED's goal is to conduct a thorough, independent criminal investigation as timely as is possible under the circumstances. SLED agents will conduct interviews with all potential witnesses in this matter. Further, SLED will collect all relevant evidence and will forensically test such evidence as needed.

Information gathered in the SLED investigation of the incident will be summarized in a case file report to be submitted to prosecutors.

This is an ongoing investigation. As such, no other information about the case will be disclosed by SLED at this time. SLED will defer to the Oconee County Sheriff's Office for any information about their deputies.

The incident in Oconee County was the 24th officer involved shooting in South Carolina in 2021. In 2020, there were 49 officer involved shootings in South Carolina; none involved the Oconee County Sheriff's Office.

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