July 2016

Investigative Unit for Environmental Crimes
Pollution is Necessary

Dr. Robert J. Diemer
Thought for Today

Without Environmental Enforcement, Criminal or Civil We Would Become Non-Existent as a Species

Dr. Robert J. Diemer
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement

- Executive Director
  ◆ Nick Wiley

- Director
  ◆ Colonel Curtis Brown

- Deputy Director: Law Enforcement
  ◆ Lt. Col. Jack Daugherty
Division of Law Enforcement

The Division of Law Enforcement is responsible for protecting the people, environment as well as Florida’s cultural and natural resources through enforcement, education and public service. In addition, the Division provides assistance in disasters such as hurricanes, oil or chemical spills, or other threatening conditions that endanger life or property.

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What is an Environmental Crime?

- **Cause harm to the environment** and **put people at risk**.

- **Willful** or **negligent violation** of any law or rule enacted to protect the environment

http://www.dep.state.fl.us/law/environmental_crimes.htm

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History

- 2012 Constitutional Revision
  - F.W.C.C.
    - Bureau of Park Patrol
    - Bureau of Environmental Investigations
      - 800 Sworn Law Enforcement Officers - All Crimes
  - D.E.P.
    - Bureau of Emergency Response
Environmental Investigations

- **WAS**
  - Largest State Environmental Criminal Investigative Agency-52 Agents

- **NOW**
  - Environmental Enforcement shrinking- 14 Agents

- **Agency Mission**
  - Patrol, Protect, Preserve
    - Investigations and Arrests
    - Intelligence Information
    - Technology Enforcement Enhancements
Sworn State Law Enforcement Officer
Statewide Arrest Jurisdiction

Typical Crimes

- Negative impact on Florida’s Environment
- Improper storage, transport, or disposal of hazardous waste
- Destruction or illegal filling of wetlands
- Burying or burning of prohibited materials.
CASE CRITERIA

- Does the incident have a......
  - Serious threat to human life?
  - Significant environmental impact?
  - Organized crime involvement?

- Does the incident rise to a.....
  - Felony charge?

- Have the individuals ......
  - Significantly benefited from their involvement?
Investigative Tactics

**Partnering**

- Drug Enforcement Administration
  - Clandestine Laboratories Investigations

- Task Force Operations with Local Agencies and EPA
  - Miami-Dade Police Department

- Partnership with DEP regulatory
  - Targeting patterns of non-compliance

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Technology Enhancements

- Electronic surveillance
- Remote surveillance
- Satellite imagery systems
- Computer forensics
System is working

However, **NOT** as effective as it once was!
Today’s Mission

Compliance
Domestic Terrorism

- Environmental Response Team (ERT)
  - Hybrid Investigative Team
  - Response Purpose
    - Support First Responders
    - Rapid analysis of substance
    - Investigators capable to enter “Hot Zones” for investigative and sampling responsibilities

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Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
Lead Law Enforcement Agency

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Investigative Examples

- **Zika Virus - Areas of infestation**
- **Telecommunications Companies**
  - Buried Cables and chemicals used.
  - Removed and dumped in wetlands.
- **Illegal harvesting/Selling Aquatic Plants**
  - 26 Arrested
- **Waste Tires – Panama City**
- **Burying Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT’s)**
  - Picture tubes from televisions and computers
- **Salvage Yards (Orange, Volusia & Flagler)**
  - Illegal releasing of pollutants
- **Raw Sewage Dumping (Ocala National Forest)**
- **Crematory (Volusia): Burying of bio-medical waste**
- **Theft of Narcotics (Sarasota): Disposal of bio-hazardous material**
- **Laboratory Fraud (Statewide)**
  - Falsification of sampling records
- **Everglades Destruction (South Florida)**
  - Dumping of waste garbage

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