

## Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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## **NEWS CONFERENCE ADVISORY**



Sheriffs from across Northwest Florida will hold a news conference at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in Shalimar on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> to highlight their "Dry Spring" operational initiatives. The start time is 2 p.m. Currently, attendance is confirmed by Okaloosa Sheriff Larry Ashley, Walton Sheriff Mike Adkinson, and Bay Sheriff Frank McKeithen.

The Sheriffs will share the latest information in their collective commitments to combat synthetic drugs and their plans to educate the expected flood of spring breakers to the dangers of substance abuse while visiting local beaches. In 2010, nearly 190,000 people under 21 visited the E-R from injuries related to the use of alcohol. Sadly, synthetic drug use is on the rise with more than 3,000 reported incidents. That number more than doubled in 2011 to over 7,000.

In addition to the updates from local Sheriffs, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office will also publicly destroy nearly one-million dollars worth of seized synthetic drug paraphernalia approved by the court for destruction.

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"