

"Tactical thinking, safety, professionalism, and diligence are key in these types of Felony-High Risk situations," explains Mike Willis, National Training Director of the United States Deputy Sheriffs' Association, about the training program presented to Freestone County Deputies and other area law enforcement on Monday, May 16th in Fairfield.

Held at the W.L. Moody Reunion Fairgrounds, this special training was given free of charge; and was open to all law enforcement agencies in Freestone County.

Participating in the training were FCS Patrol Deputies: Jack Wright, Pat Williams, and Travis Martin; and Teague PD Officer Demarcus Jones.

Giving instruction in this free training program were Director Willis and Deputy Director David Hinnners, both of the USDSA, with the assistance of Freestone County Patrol Sergeant, Dusty Brewer.

The class included informational videos during the morning; and hands on training of various types of situations during the afternoon. Some scenarios would be stops that consist of a high speed pursuit, robberies, drug stops, assaults, and the like.

"These types of stops happen more often than most people realize," states Sergeant Brewer. "Especially with Interstate 45 running right through our county. We want all our law enforcement officers to be well trained to keep them, and the persons being stopped, safe from harm."

"The goal is to get all officers on the same page," continued Director Willis. "If everyone keeps calm, forms a plan with good communication, and stays in control of the situation, we can reduce the numbers of excessive force cases and incidents involving law enforcement while keeping everyone safe."

Nicole Schaefer reporting