



Sheriff J. Al Cannon, Jr., County of Charleston, South Carolina

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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
May 10, 2018**

Vehicle Pursuit-Vehicle Fire

(Awendaw, SC) On May 9, 2018, just before 10:30 p.m., Charleston County Deputies pursued a vehicle that subsequently crashed into a tree and caught fire, forcing deputies to rescue an unresponsive passenger, a toddler and a puppy from the car.

Deputies initially attempted a traffic stop on the vehicle for an equipment violation on Highway 17N near South Santee Road in McClellanville. The driver fled southbound on Highway 17N towards Awendaw. The driver lost control of the vehicle, causing it to crash into trees near Steed Creek Road. The driver, identified as Shanqunek Shirlena Fleming, exited the vehicle and was taken into custody, at which point the vehicle caught on fire. Deputies saw an unresponsive adult male subject in the front passenger's seat, along with a toddler and puppy in the rear seat. Deputies were unable to access the driver's side due to trees, while the rear passenger's door was jammed shut. Deputies attempted to shatter the rear windows with a baton, but were unsuccessful. The fire quickly spread rearward, forcing deputies to climb into the vehicle to remove the toddler and the puppy. All subjects were transported to a hospital. The child was not injured, and was released to the custody of the SC Dept of Social Services. The male passenger was released. The suspect was treated and subsequently transported to the Al Cannon Detention Center. The puppy was transported to an emergency veterinary hospital for an injured leg. Awendaw Fire and Charleston County EMS also arrived on scene to assist. The SC Highway Patrol was notified to investigate the collision. This is an active investigation.

Suspect: Shanqunek Shirlena Fleming, 26 yrs old, from Charleston.

Charges:

1. Failure to Stop for Blue Light
2. Reckless Driving
3. Child Endangerment
4. Ill Treatment of Animals
5. Possession of Stolen Property (License Plate)
6. Driving Under Suspension

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