

**SOUTH CAROLINA  
FIREFIGHTER MOBILIZATION**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee**

*Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, 10 a.m.*

**141 Monticello Trail, Building 2**

**Columbia, SC 29203**

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting was posted and advertised pursuant to South Carolina laws, rules, and regulations. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chairman Jones. Others in attendance included: Firefighter Mobilization Regional Coordinators Rick Dangerfield, Keith Minick, Charlie King, William Dillon, Marquis Soloman, and Pierce Womack. Representing State Fire include Chief Ken Kerber, Chad Beam, George Stapleton, JD McCarley, and Susan Duncan.

A quorum was present. Chairman Jones welcomed the Committee members and guests.

**II. Roll Call of Members**

SC Firefighter Mobilization Committee											
Jonathan Jones	X	Darryl Jones	A	Kyle Minick	X	Bruce Kline	P	Alvin Payne	P	Mick Mayers	A
Mike Russell for Kim Stenson	X	Mike Bedenbaugh	A	Phil Jolley	A	Tommy McDowell	P	Harry Tinsley	A	Mark Keel	X

*P: Via Phone X: Present A: Absent*

**III. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes**

Mark Keel made a motion to approve today’s agenda. Mike Russell seconded. Motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

Mike Russell made a motion to approve the Oct. 24, 2018, minutes. Mark Keel seconded. Motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

**IV. Mobilization Coordinator’s Report and ERTF/HART Update**

Ken Kerber distributed a roster of SCTF1 members (updated as of Feb. 4, 2019) and a calendar of upcoming scheduled 2019 exercises and training events. There were two mobilization efforts within the last quarter (line of duty death and the Greenville area “chainsaw” deployment).

He also provided a D4H update and reminded Committee members they have access to D4H.

Provided an update regarding Homeland Security grant purchases - \$180,000 of worth of HazMat monitors have been purchased. Applied for \$300,000 in the Homeland Security 2019 grant cycle. Regional Response Team members have been invited to participate with SCETV to develop online training for the numerous regional response teams.

Kerber invited committee members to witness the structural collapse training (60 participants/ four days of training).

**V. ERTF/ HART Update**

See above.

**VI. IST Update**

Jonathan Jones reminded the members that during the October 2018 meeting a gap was identified and there is a need for State Fire to have an Incident Support Team. During Hurricane Florence, the State brought in, through EMAC, Louisiana Type II IST and FEMA Red IST. It was recognized as a need to have a complimentary organization in South Carolina. The intent is to establish a team specific to USAR with associated specialists. Staff has developed an organizational chart, written position descriptions, and identified key players. Staff has also learned logistics tends to slow down the process – so, there is a need for a logistics manager for the team. Having one will streamline requests through Palmetto. Staff has worked with Louisiana and developed a multi-state rescue guide. The intent is to mirror the ISTs as, chances are Louisiana and South Carolina won't be impacted by same storm (hurricane landfall site). There will be training with Louisiana and tabletop discussions. In May 2019, Louisiana will be sending several employees for a train-the-trainer class in Columbia.

Staff will be using FEMA IST as a baseline model. However, with South Carolina there are different needs that don't exist in the FEMA model. For example, Mobilization needs to be worked into the Operations and Planning sections and representation is needed on the local level in the county EOCs. State Fire management will be utilizing deputy state fire marshals and Fire Academy regional coordinators - who already have local relationships and assign a liaison officer to the county EOC. Doing so will help those assigned to the SEOC to "deconflict" information. Staff has created a map showing who is assisting in which counties and will attend regional meetings to share the information. Staff will also need to identify Division supervisors to help local fire chiefs with requests. There will be a USAR 101 type of class for those who will be involved and an invitation to a future ORE to better communicate and act as a liaison on the local level.

Director Farr is requesting from the legislature a new full-time employee to manage organizational structure and training. The FTE will also be used on a daily/weekly basis as there are thousands of people (housing/ food) on the Academy campus each week. A weekly IAP will be shared with impacted State Fire employees.

**VII. Status of After Action Reviews (AAR) and Reimbursements**

Chairman Jones discussed meeting face-to-face with several counties and had phone interviews. A survey went to everyone for a response. Those targeted include who sent or received a large amount of resources. The response is mostly positive and there are "lessons learned." One example, staff learned a fire chief in an affected county wants to speak directly with the State Fire Marshal - as often as needed.

Another challenge is to educate on the local level about other organizations showing up to help. We also need to do a better job on the local level of how to use a team.

Classes for local fire chiefs will be offered during the Fire Rescue conference in June 2019. Subjects include the EMAC and resource request process, and a "So You Asked for a USAR team – Now What?" type of class. A FEMA representative will help teach the courses.

A Hurricane Florence overview was presented to Fire Service Improvement Conference in January 2019.

Once the AAR is finished, a presentation of findings will be made during the June 2019 Fire Rescue conference.

Regarding reimbursements, staff has received invoices from the majority of in-state departments. Those invoices, right now, total less than \$1 million. The total does not include meals, emergency preparation, electricity, dorm use, etc.

Jonathan Jones explained the FEMA reimbursement process. It is set up to make sure all the paperwork has been submitted and to avoid duplicate payments by two different entities. More than \$202,000 has been entered into the FEMA system for reimbursement.

#### **V. Old Business**

Jonathan Jones stated LLR Director Emily Farr has asked for one-time non-recurring \$1 million appropriation from the legislature to help with USAR to create a replacement plan for large item purchases. The funds will also purchase a communications cache with updated technology. It takes \$700,000 to maintain current equipment.

Regarding the status of committee appointments/reappointments – Kyle Minick is working on it and a list of those willing to serve will be presented to the Governor's office.

#### **VI. New Business**

Jonathan Jones reminded committee members the Collapse Refresher class is on campus with 60 attendees. An invitation to watch part of the training and to meet with attendees was extended to Committee members.

Chad Beam provided a demonstration to improve making/receiving a mobilization request. The National Mutual Aide System is web-based developed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs. It gives one a dashboard/ real-time view on the ground and is also viewed on a national level. It is GEO interfaced. The annual fee is \$21,000. Training for all who will utilize it will have to take place. User permissions will have to be defined as well.

A motion was made by Mark Keel to appoint Mike Ellis as the Firefighter Mobilization Region II Coordinator. Mike Russell seconded. Motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

#### **VII. Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held May 1, 2019, at 10 a.m. Alvin Payne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Russell seconded. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.