

**SOUTH CAROLINA
FIREFIGHTER MOBILIZATION**

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MEETING MINUTES

Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018, 2:30 p.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 2:33 p.m. by Chairman Jones. Others in attendance included: LLR Director Emily Farr, Firefighter Mobilization Regional Coordinators Rick Dangerfield, Keith Minick, Charlie King, Marquis Soloman, and Mike Norkett. Representing State Fire include Chief Ken Kerber, Chad Beam, Shon Hamilton, George Stapleton, 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	P	Kyle Minick	X	Bruce Kline	X	Alvin Payne	A	Mick Mayers	A
Kim Stenson	P	Mike Bedenbaugh	P	Phil Jolley	A	Tommy McDowell	P	Harry Tinsley	A	Stewart Robinson for Mark Keel	X

P: Via Phone X: Present A: Absent

III. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes

Bruce Kline made a motion to approve the agenda. Stewart Robinson seconded. Motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

Bruce Kline made a motion to approve the Aug. 1, 2018 minutes. Darryl Jones seconded. Motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

IV. Discussion on After Action Review (AAR) method to be used for Hurricane Florence Response

Chairman Jones discussed upcoming after action reviews (AAR) of the Hurricane Florence mobilization response. He asked for committee input and an endorsement of the review method. The intent of an AAR is for it to reveal any strengths, weaknesses, and gaps.

Bruce Kline stated large ‘hot washes’ are ineffective. He recommended reviews take place in person with requesting agencies and phone interviews with those who deployed personnel. Afterwards, an email could be sent that compiles what was discussed during each interview. As such, issues will be captured in writing. He recommended Committee members be part of the review process as it is a learning tool.

Chairman Jones asked for any other recommended methods. Kim Stenson agreed with Chief Kline's suggestion and reminded the committee the military and EMD accomplishes AARs in person – as it is the accepted industry method. Kline suggested after the interviews are over, a large meeting take place at the Academy to present the findings. Per Darryl Jones, a similar method was used after the Highway 31 fire.

Bruce Kline made a motion that State Fire and representatives from Firefighter Mobilization conduct phone interviews of those who were deployed by Hurricane Florence with a follow-up detailed email. In-person reviews will take place with requesting agencies. After completion, a large meeting will be held with an invitation to South Carolina fire service members. Darryl Jones seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with discussion. Tommy McDowell discussed that during interviews it is more effective if everything is talked about – “to include the good, the bad, and the ugly.” Chairman Jones agreed and stated that regional coordinators should also be interviewed.

Ken Kerber asked that involved agencies also be included. Chairman Jones stated these interviews are specific to Mobilization and those interviews could be accomplished through the SERT after action review.

Darryl Jones stated he would send Chairman Jones a copy of the document used after the Highway 31 fire.

Chairman Jones asked for Mobilization members to assist with interviews. Bruce Kline, Tommy McDowell, and Charlie King volunteered.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

Chad Beam presented a Hurricane Florence event timeline (Sept. 7 – Oct. 6) - especially from the perspective of Firefighter Mobilization. Landfall was Sept. 14 as a Category 1 hurricane. The busiest day was September 21. Beam will email the presentation to committee members and thanked everyone for their support.

Bruce Kline stated he was deployed to Darlington and Horry counties, and spent a day in Georgetown. He commented this was his first time with division supervisors and noticed different dynamics between Georgetown and Horry counties. He stated supervisors need a “playbook” and an MOU with the requesting agency. He was proud of the professionalism of the teams and that Firefighter Mobilization proved its worth. Lessons were learned with previous hurricanes and current leadership did a fantastic job coordinating resources.

Chief Jones stated this was the first time SC Task Force 1 deployed as Type 1 Team (without canines and engineers) in-state.

Chairman Jones stated, based on discussions as a result of seeing our plans put into action during Hurricane Florence, the storm gave us an advantage by slowing down and Firefighter Mobilization was able to implement plans put into place by lessons learned from previous hurricanes. We were fortunate the speed of the storm gave us necessary time to make adjustments. Early on, we brought in an incident report team for assistance, through EMAC. Louisiana was brought in, along with their State Fire Marshal, and it was beneficial. We identified this as one of the gaps - we have done a good job of recruiting operators (i.e. rock breakers, boat operators, swift water technicians,

and wide area search personnel). However, it is difficult to recruit those who want to participate in planning and logistics.

Director Farr stated there is an agency budget request for an FTE position adding an Incident Report Team Manager.

Chairman Jones stated LLR is requesting one-time, non-recurring funding in 2019 for \$1 million to help with large item purchases for TF-1 and the new IST. A third of that request is related to communications equipment to build an all-hazards incident report team. He looks forward to the support during the legislative process.

Director Farr wanted to recognize the effort and hard work to keep everyone informed. Ken Kerber stated it was a team effort. Chairman Jones agreed, thanked all involved, and stated everyone worked together and learned lessons. He looks forward to the review process and, in fact, is also meeting with Louisiana officials to conduct an AAR and gauge his performance. He is eager to learn how to make it better for future events.

In closing, Chairman Jones said our work with FEMA, during the hurricane was beneficial (i.e. VA, PA, and FL). He was told how fortunate we are to have what we have – i.e. facilities, campus, USAR building, and equipment. There is a lot to be proud of – including the relationships that were made. Our future potential is encouraging.

VII. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting will be held Feb. 6, 2019, at 10 a.m. Kyle Minick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Kline seconded. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.