

SOUTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER MOBILIZATION

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MEETING MINUTES

Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 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 Mike Norkett, Mike Ellis, Rick Dangerfield, Marquis Soloman, and Pierce Womack. State Fire representation includes Chief Ken Kerber, Chad Beam, George Stapleton, and Susan Duncan. Also in attendance were Kevin Hinson (Greenville City Fire), David Reed (Columbia FD), Robert Risinger (Lexington County Fire Service), Robert Maciariello (State Guard), Paul Herring (State Guard), and Glenn Hamm (State Guard).

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	X	Charlie King	X	Bruce Kline	X	Brian LeGette	X	Mark Davis	X
Mike Russell for Kim Stenson	X	Mike Bedenbaugh	A	Phil Jolley	P	Steve Kovalcik	P	Joey Tanner	P	Richard Hunton 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 today's agenda. Mark Davis seconded. Motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

Bruce Kline made a motion to approve the Nov. 14, 2019, minutes. Darryl Jones seconded. Motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

IV. Mobilizations Coordinator's Report

Chad Beam, Statewide Coordinator, provided a report to committee members. NMAS, the new tasking order system, will be active in mid-February. This will allow fire departments to build inventory. Training is still taking place and includes half of regions 3 and 4. Already registered in the system include – 90 municipal/SPD, seven county wide systems, and two Emergency Management agencies.

Chief Jones stated he, along with State Fire employees George Stapleton and Doug Spinks, attended a meeting at SLED for the regional IMT's. There is interest in them also using NMAS.

Beam also stated:

- All 28 federal USAR teams, the three Federal ISTs, and the IMAC teams for FEMA are already built into NMAS. SC will be the first state to go live.
- Invited by Florida's State Fire Marshal in December 2019 to assist them with on-board training.
- NMAS accounts have been built for every department. Inventory will be submitted.
- The NMAS committee is being chaired by South Carolina. As we use and test it, any changes made to the system will be nationwide.
- Survey 123 is the GIS based tool. Training with 27 staff members took place last week with Emergency Management. There were two simultaneous exercises (Columbia and Greenville) displaying live data feed. There is one common operating picture and it proved to be successful.
- A week later, it is also being used with today's potential flooding and bad weather for damage assessment.
- The One Responder program, created by FEMA, is a free position qualification system. FEMA wants one system for USAR. It will be built into NMAS.
- A statewide radio template has been built. The encryption keys haves been ordered. Radio programming will take place in a few weeks. All 46 counties are in the template and this is a plus for Firefighter Mobilization.
- There have not been any mobilization requests since the last meeting.

V. **SC-TF1 and SC-HART Update**

Chief Ken Kerber thanked Chand Beam and Shon Hamilton for their hard work the past few months. Beam recently received LLR's "Rock Star" award.

Chief Kerber provided a list of upcoming training events. He also stated:

- There are 121 current operational members on the roster. Continue to obtain new members and are processing six (State Fire Marshal Office employees) pending applications.
- Due to the number of new members, staff created a probationary member~~firefighter~~ task book. Depending on specialty, it describes basic duty functions and suggests training classes for specific disciplines.
- USAR building is clean as it will be used for the upcoming Executive Chief Officer Weekend.

Chief Jones reminded attendees the construction regarding the dormitory renovation is complete. It was completed under budget. The fire station is almost complete.

VI. **SC-IST (Palmetto IST) Update**

Chief Jones stated there are 32 IST members (26 are full-time employees). He also stated:

- Met at SLED last week with regional IMT and Forestry. Agreed our IST qualification process will mirror the regional IMTs.
 - Asked to sit on qualification review board. This aligns with Regional IMTs. Goal is to supplement each other and enhance the use and capabilities of the team.
- State Fire is hosting USFA 0305 course (NWCG equivalent) the last week in February. This is the base course.
- Several members have completed the ir task books.

- IST requested by US Marine Corp to deploy to Guardian Center in June to serve as IMT. An advance team was sent last year and the Marine Corp was pleased with our work. They will ask us to participate annually. This is real-to-life training and a great opportunity.
- Converted an existing climate-controlled trailer to an IST trailer for deployments.
- Uniforms arrived
- First quarterly training for IST held in January.

VII. Old Business

A. Firefighter Mobilization Plan Update

Chief Jones stated the goal is to update the 2018 plan before Hurricane season. It is on a two-year revision cycle. Chiefs Tanner and Davis have agreed to assist with updates.

- Need to include NMAS
- Update due to changes in technology

Finance Report is based on numbers through December 2019.

- Firefighter Mobilization is currently at 32 percent of its budget.
 - Cash balance is \$368,917.56 (includes \$165,000).
 - Amount is higher due to the two year time period without a paid coordinator.

USAR budget, several years ago, was split between two cost centers. Thus, funding authorization comes from:

- Fire Marshal budget pays for equipment, personnel, and deployment.
- Fire Academy budget pays for training, the facility and insurance.
 - Cash balance is \$167,722.97 (end of December)
- USAR does not have its own funding source – each year it starts/ends with a zero balance. Money is transferred each year.
 - USAR training cash balance \$149,110.27
- Some travel was coded using the wrong cost center. Journal entries have to be corrected.
- Insurance on the building (\$36,000) should be coded to training – not USAR.
- All are under 50 percent – USAR Training is at 28 percent of its budget (with correct journal entries, it will increase).
- Reminder - HART training currently is paid for by USAR.
- As of July 1, HART will have its own cost center assigned to easily track expenditures – especially now that there is a HART Academy.
- LLR requested from Executive Budget Office one-time non-recurring fund totaling \$850,000 for Task Force 1 equipment replacement (10 year cycle). Chief Jones received a favorable report from the subcommittee. The full committee will meet in two weeks.

There continues to be a positive response to landfill search.

Approval last week from “Other Funds Authorization Committee” – staff asked to increase in authorization (permission) amount to cover the landfill search and Hurricane Dorian expenses (FEMA to eventually reimburse).

Staff is creating a reimbursement class to be presented at conferences and this will help streamline the process. EMD will also help provide guidance. Chad Beam updated attendees on reimbursement for the following:

- Hurricane Florence - waiting on final approval at (simple invoice corrections).

- Hurricane Dorian - obtaining information from departments and inserting it into spreadsheets. Meeting with FEMA to provide spreadsheet this week (about \$115,000 to be reimbursed).
- Landfill - should be a smoother reimbursement process. All documentation has been received. Departments must have a State vendor number to be reimbursed.

VIII. New Business

A. Region 1 Coordinator Recommendation

Since becoming the new Executive Director of the SC State Firefighters' Association, Chief Charlie King has resigned as Region 1 coordinator. Chief Jones recommended Pierce Womack.

- Chief Phil Jolley made the motion to nominate Pierce Womack as the Region 1 Coordinator. Chief Bruce Kline seconded. Motion carried unanimously, without discussion.
 - Pierce Womack appreciates the kind words and accepts the appointment.
- Five people are interested in serving as the assistant coordinator to replace Pierce Womack and have submitted letters of interest. Chad Beam recommended Pierce Womack along with Chiefs Kovalcik, and Jolley to serve on the selection committee.
 - Chief Bruce Kline made the motion to create the selection committee. Chief Legette seconded. Motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

Richard Hunton reminded attendees of the federally recognized "Phoenix Dawn" training which is being coordinated by SLED and EMD. There will be 37 regional teams involved with the exercise that will help identify strengths and weaknesses. It will be held the week of March 9 at Fire Academy, a school in Cayce, and at the Port of Charleston. Out-of-state teams are attending.

Mike Russell, EMD, stated the SCEMA convention will be held in Myrtle Beach. Chief Jones reminded members EMDs State Warning Point is used by State Fire as a Dispatch Center.

Darryl Jones stated a recently stolen unit worth more than \$300,000 has been recovered. Additionally, SC Forestry Commission has released an App and it cost \$2,000. The fire fatality on Fort Jackson's property is still under investigation.

Marquis Solomon stated the Fort Jackson Chief of Training is interested in participating in Mobilization.

IX. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting will be held May 6, 2020, at 10 a.m. Charlie King made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.