

**SOUTH CAROLINA  
FIREFIGHTER MOBILIZATION**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee**

**May 12, 2021 at 2 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting**

*Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina State Fire, 141 Monticello Trail, Columbia, SC 29203 and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.*

*In accordance with the Governor’s directives regarding social distancing, the meeting was held via video and teleconference.*

**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 p.m. by Chairman Jones. Others in attendance included Keith Minick, Brandon Hollman, Russell Alexander, Emily Farr (LLR Director), Matthew Littleton, Pierce Womack, Mike Ellis, Chris Blankenship, Dustin Sherbert, Mike Norkett, Rick Dangerfield, Marquis Soloman, Greg Chesher, B. Dillon along with State Fire employees Ken Kerber, Nathan Ellis, Tim Wojcik, George Stapleton, JD McCarley, Doug Spinks, Susan Duncan, and Chad Beam.

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

**II. Roll Call of Members**

SC Firefighter Mobilization Committee											
Jonathan Jones	Z	Darryl Jones	Z	Charlie King	Z	Bruce Kline	Z	Brian LeGette	Z	Mark Davis	Z
Kim Stenson	Z	Mike Bedenbaugh	Z	Phil Jolley	Z	Steve Kovalcik	Z	Joey Tanner	Z	Stuart Robertson for Mark Keel	Z

*Z: Via Zoom (phone) X: Present A: Absent*

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

Bruce Kline made a motion to approve today’s agenda. Steve Kovalcik seconded. Motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

Steve Kovalcik made a motion to approve the August 20, 2020, minutes. Bruce Kline seconded. Motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

**IV. Mobilization Coordinator’s Report**

Chad Beam, Statewide Coordinator, provided a report to committee members. He stated there were nine mobilization requests since the last meeting and briefly discussed each request. He also shared the Sumter Warehouse fire resulted in successful usage of the mobilization drone. He discussed the National Mutual Aid System (NMAAS) and provided an update.

Regarding reimbursement, staff has finished the appeal for Hurricane Florence reimbursement (approx. \$1 million). Beam is working on completing the three deployments from last year.

Beam provided an update regarding Survey 123 and stated South Carolina “leads the way” for the SUSAR teams. SC has been picked by FEMA for a trial project. If successful, this will lead the way for the future of all USAR teams.

The Firefighter Mobilization Plan has been completed along with the change document.

Future plans include looking at an RMS for Firefighter Mobilization and Urban Search and Rescue.

The coordinators held training April 29, 2021. They voted to host future trainings in other regions to ensure coordinators are able to train with different set-ups.

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

Chief Ken Kerber shared a summary of events. The two-page spreadsheet was shared with members along with a list of 16 future events/exercises and an updated roster indicating 157 members.

In nine months, staff logged at least 32,740 volunteer man hours.

Regarding upcoming events, staff is preparing the cache for the upcoming hurricane season.

Two HART Academy’s will be held in July 2021. Staff also held a six-day annual training for its members in January to get new MOU’s, ITOs, and review policies. The USAR Task Force Blue and Red teams were realigned. This will allow for better communications and time management.

In October 2020, the Division was awarded a \$35,000 grant from SLED through Homeland Security to purchase additional HazMat equipment and a Motorola APX 8000 radio.

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

Doug Spinks provided the update and stated there are 31 members on the roster. Staff is preparing its policies and procedures manual as well as for a future two-day (round-the-clock) training exercise in Perry, Georgia in June 2021. Twenty-one staff members will work alongside the Marine Corps. Chief Jones will attend as an evaluator.

Hurricane preparation continues.

Several advance teams were deployed to Louisiana to assist with hurricanes impacting their state. Staff assisted LLR with COVID planning and also assisted DHEC for six weeks (several days a week) with assessing their COVID response and creating a weekly incident action plan.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **A. Firefighter Mobilization Plan Update**

Chad Beam stated provided an update regarding the Plan. It is complete. A final version was sent to Chief Jones along with a change document. It is ready for review by the committee.

Chief Jones states a section was added regarding reimbursement which mirrors the one found in the State Emergency Operations Plan. There is a two-year revision cycle for the Plan.

A motion was made Phil Jolley to adopt the Mobilization plan. It was seconded by Darryl Jones. The motion was carried unanimously without discussion.

**VIII. New Business**

None

**IX. Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next meeting was not scheduled. It will be at the call of the chair.

Steve Kovalcik made a motion to adjourn. Bruce Kline seconded. The motion was carried unanimously without discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.