



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE

a Division of South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Firefighter Mobilization

141 Monticello Trail • Columbia, SC 29203

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MEETING MINUTES

Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee

Tuesday, July 29, 2025 at 10 a.m.

**141 Monticello Trail, Building 2 and Virtually
Columbia, SC 29203**

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. The meeting was also 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 10 a.m. by Chairman Jones.

Others in attendance included Stewart Robertson (SLED). State Fire employees included Michelle Stanly, George Stapleton, Nathan Ellis, Joseph Borrelli, Chad Beam, and Amy Williamson.

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

II. Roll Call of Members

SC Firefighter Mobilization Committee											
P: Present V: Virtual A: Absent											
Jonathan Jones	P	Darryl Jones	P	Jamie Helms	P	Bruce Kline	P	Charlie King	V	Mark Davis	P
Kim Stenson	P	Mike Bedenbaugh	A	Phil Jolley	V	Tres Atkinson	V	Joey Tanner	V	Stewart Robertson for Mark Keel	P

III. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes:

Bruce Kline made a motion to approve today's agenda. Kim Stenson seconded. The motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

Mark Davis made a motion to approve the April 30, 2025, minutes. Kim Stenson seconded. The motion carried unanimously, without discussion.

IV. Chairman's Remarks
Financial Update:

Chairman Jones delivered a comprehensive financial update including current budget information and remaining balances for non-recurring US&R funds.

V. Mobilization Coordinator's Report
Review of Deployments and FFMOB Missions

Chad Beam delivered a report to the committee members. He noted that there had been no recent mobilizations since the last committee meeting, which was seen as a positive development. While there had been preliminary calls to discuss potential activations, none materialized into actual deployments.

VI. SC-TF1 and SC-HART Update

Chad Beam delivered a comprehensive report to the committee members highlighting an upcoming Preparedness Day scheduled for next week involving the mobilization of regional coordinators and all South Carolina US&R teams. Chad emphasized the importance of this event, which will include key partners such as EMD operations, planning, and logistics. The primary focus will be enhancing in-state-deployment processes using the SARCOP GIS system, which all US&R teams nationwide utilize. Participants will explore the updated version of SARCOP, its dashboards, and review deployment expectations and documentation requirements. Although prompted by hurricane readiness, the preparedness process will apply to any type of deployment.

All six US&R teams will now wear a new system patch on one shoulder and their team patch on the other.

SC-TF1 Deployment to Texas:

- Five personnel and two dogs were deployed to Kerrville, Texas via EMAC request, with a duration of 14 days.
- One truck was broken into twice during the deployment, Starlink stolen then recovered and petty cash stolen.
- Our team worked closely with Colorado Task Force 1.

This mission also marked a strong collaboration with Carolina Foothills Search and Rescue, a contracted EMAC K9 team. Chad noted that although South Carolina still plans to build an internal canine program, this partnership offers valuable flexibility.

Upon return from Texas, the deployed members were welcomed back with a reception and connected with a FAST team member to begin a 3-day, 3-week, and 3-month wellness check. While the deployment was not overly traumatic, the department continues to prioritize mental wellness after disaster missions.



Federal US&R System Status:

Chad discussed federal USAR system updates. He announced that FEMA had just released the 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunities for several grants, including EMPG, Homeland Security, and the Nonprofit Security Grant, along with eight others. Importantly, the FEMA USAR Grant Cooperative Agreement—essential to the functioning of 28 federal USAR teams—was also released, which confirms the continuity of the federal system for at least one more year. The application deadline is August 11.

HART:

- Two rescues in North Carolina (Grandfather Mountain).
- HART academy coming up for new rescuers.
- Coordination with SLED for hoist training and integration of the 412 aircraft.

SC-TF1 Training hours provided by Chad Beam:

- May: 2,309 hours
- June: 538 hours
- July: TBD (including wide area search class)

This brought the current three-month total to approximately 2,847 hours.

VII. SC-IST (Palmetto IST) Update

George Stapleton delivered updates regarding training, past/future events, and member service.

VIII. Old Business

Chairman Jones delivered a comprehensive financial update on the remaining funds for each regional team, along with an update on Helene and Debbie reimbursements.

Chairman Jones also provided an update on the New USAR Building:

- Requested \$10 million, received \$5.75 million in state budget.
- Feasibility study estimated cost at \$18.2 million.
- Exploring options for funding or scaling back the project scope.
- Non-recurring funds do not have a time limit.

IX. New Business

Daryl Jones delivered comprehensive updates on Forestry Commission Staffing, aircraft purchases, contract air tankers, and fuel modeling and funding to committee members.

Stewart Robertson delivered updates on SLED programs, upcoming conferences, courses, and exercises to committee members.

Jamie Helms delivered details on purchasing a facility to house the SC Fire Heritage and Educational Center and Firefighters' Association Headquarters. The facility will have the capability to be used as a staging center for mobilization, if needed.



X. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 7, 2025 in the State Fire Marshal's conference room in Columbia. There will be a virtual option.

Director Daryl Jones made a motion to adjourn. Kim Stenson seconded. The motion was carried unanimously without discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

