



MAY 2025

THE SITUATION REPORT

*The Official Newsletter of
Greenville County Emergency
Management*



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Congratulations



DIRECTOR PIERCE WOMACK

Congratulations on your well-deserved promotion to Emergency Management Director! Your leadership and dedication to public safety are truly inspiring. Wishing you continued success as you take on this important role.

TABLE ROCK FIRES



On Friday, March 21, 2025, a fire ignited on Table Rock. Fueled by dry conditions, high winds, and downed timber from Hurricane Helene, the fire rapidly spread across the park's dense forest. A secondary fire ignited on Persimmon Ridge a day later. Multiple agencies and equipment, from local departments to those out of state, joined forces to battle what would become the largest wildfire ever recorded in upstate South Carolina's history, with more than 15,000 acres burned.



SC Firefighter Mobilization coordinated almost 1,000 firefighters and over 400 apparatus. Fire crews worked tirelessly on the ground while helicopters from the South Carolina Army National Guard and SLED led aerial firefighting efforts. For the first time in South Carolina history, a Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT) conducted an aerial drop of fire retardant, targeting areas north of Table Rock to slow the wildfire's progression and protect critical terrain and infrastructure.



The Table Rock Complex Incident Command Post was established at the Table Rock Wesleyan Camp, serving as the central hub for briefings, the base for support teams, the collection and distribution point for donations, and the location where volunteers provided meals to incident personnel. Officials went door to door to ensure residents of 856 homes were aware of the mandatory call for evacuations. Over the span of two days, significant rainfall of 1.5 inches, helped contain the fires. Before containment, 13,845 acres of Table Rock, and 2,128 acres on Persimmon Ridge burned. The Table Rock Complex Incident was listed as the number one priority fire in the nation for four days, with no damage to structures or loss of life.





NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

APRIL 13-19, 2025

The week of April 13-19, 2025, we honored the unsung heroes behind the headset—our nation's public safety telecommunicators. These dedicated professionals are the calm voices in chaos, the first link in the emergency response chain, and the steady presence behind every 911 call. Whether coordinating life-saving responses, supporting field personnel, or providing critical instructions under pressure, their commitment and composure save lives every day.

This year, Greenville County Emergency Management would like to recognize the heartbreaking loss of two exceptional team members from MedCom: Jeremy Cruell and Joshua Wise. Throughout their service with MedCom, both men exemplified dedication and selflessness, consistently putting the needs of citizens and their coworkers first. Prior to their roles as dispatchers, Jeremy served as a firefighter, while Joshua worked as an EMT/Paramedic—both experiences fueling their passion for dispatching.

Jeremy Cruell

04-21-2024



Joshua Wise

03-09-2025



— HAPPY — Retirement

Greenville County Emergency Management is proud to recognize and celebrate the dedicated service of two exceptional leaders as they retire.



DEPUTY CHIEF CHIP DICKERT, GANTT DISTRICT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Chief Dickert served 33 years in the fire service and was a longtime member of Greenville County's Emergency Response Team (ERT) HazMat Team. Deputy Chief Dickert brought unparalleled expertise and calm leadership to countless hazardous materials incidents, always putting safety and precision at the forefront. His commitment to training, preparedness, and mentoring younger firefighters has left a lasting legacy.

CHIEF MATT SUTHERLAND, SOUTH GREENVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

Chief Sutherland served 20 years in the fire service and was a Coordinator and member of the rescue team for Greenville County's Emergency Response Team (ERT). Chief Sutherland led with heart, courage, and coordination that brought clarity and effectiveness to even the most complex rescue missions. As a coordinator, he streamlined operations and enhanced teamwork across divisions, ensuring crews could respond quickly and efficiently when seconds mattered most.



Their combined decades of service have made a deep and lasting impact on their departments and Greenville County's community. We thank them both for their leadership, bravery, and unwavering commitment. Best wishes in your well-earned retirement!

National Wildfire Awareness Month

Plan, Prepare & Prevent

PLAN FOR WILDFIRE



As the weather becomes warmer and wildland vegetation, or fuels, begin to dry out, it is time to plan for the wildfires:

Recognize Warnings and Alerts

Make an Emergency Plan

Review Important Documents

Strengthen your Home

Know your Evacuation Zone

Gather Supplies

PREPARE YOUR HOME



Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves and debris

Move flammable material away from wall exteriors

Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches

Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris

PREVENT WILDFIRES



Learn how to properly use outdoor equipment

Burn debris safely

Start, maintain, and extinguish a campfire safely



HURRICANE

PREPAREDNESS TIPS

Essential Tips to Keep You Prepared!



Create an Emergency Kit

Prepare an emergency kit with:

- Non-perishable food and water for at least 3 days
- First aid supplies and medications
- Flashlights, batteries, and a battery-powered radio



Develop a Family Emergency Plan

- Identify a safe room or the safest areas in your home
- Plan evacuation routes and meeting places
- Ensure all family members know the plan and practice it regularly



Stay Informed

- Monitor weather forecasts and updates from trusted sources
- Sign up for local emergency alerts
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio for real-time updates



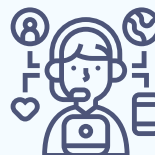
Protect Your Home

- Secure windows and doors with storm shutters or plywood
- Bring in outdoor furniture and secure loose items
- Trim trees and shrubs to minimize damage



Know Your Evacuation Zone

- Learn your community's hurricane evacuation routes
- Follow the instructions of local officials during an evacuation order
- Have a plan for your pets



Stay Connected

- Charge all electronic devices and have backup power sources
- Keep a list of emergency contacts
- Use social media responsibly to stay updated and inform others of your status

For more detailed tips and resources, visit www.gceoc.com or call 864-467-2680

TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Course Name: [EOC Operations and Planning \(MGT 346\)](#)
When: [May 13-14, 2025](#)
Time: [8:00 am - 5:00 pm](#)
Location: [Greenville County Emergency Management-225 S Pleasantburg Dr. Greenville, SC 29607](#)
[LMS Link](#)

Course Name: [Medical Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive \(CBRNE\) Events \(PER211\)](#)
When: [June 10-11, 2025](#)
Time: [8:00 am - 5:00 pm](#)
Location: [Greenville County Emergency Management-225 S Pleasantburg Dr. Greenville, SC 29607](#)
Participants will have to register on LMS and on TEEX.
Participants will have to complete pre-test.
[LMS Link](#)
[TEEX Link](#)

Course Name: [ICS/EOC Interface Workshop \(G191\)](#)
When: [July 1, 2025](#)
Time: [9:00 am - 5:00 pm](#)
Location: [Greenville County Emergency Management-225 S Pleasantburg Dr. Greenville, SC 29607](#)
[LMS Link](#)



Need to register for a training?

Greenville County Emergency Management Training: [Training & Exercises Calendar](#)
South Carolina Emergency Management Division Training: [Training Registration System](#).