



JULY 2025

THE SITUATION REPORT

*The Official Newsletter of
Greenville County Emergency
Management*



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SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE



June 11-14, 2025, more than 5,000 South Carolina firefighters convened in Myrtle Beach for the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association's annual Fire-Rescue Conference, which is the largest in-state training event for the fire service.

A cornerstone of South Carolina's fire service community for over 120 years, the Fire-Rescue Conference continues to provide critical training and professional development opportunities. Throughout the four-day event, nearly 50 specialized courses were offered, covering a wide range of topics designed to enhance skills, promote safety, and strengthen emergency response across the state.



Congratulations

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

President Pierce Womack



"It's truly an honor and a privilege to stand before you today as the incoming President of the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association. I am both humbled and excited to take on this role and serve alongside such an outstanding group of professionals who continue to uphold the proud traditions of this wonderful organization."

-Pierce Womack, President

The Fire-Rescue Conference marked a significant leadership transition for the Association. On Saturday, June 14, during the Transfer of Command ceremony, President Pierce Womack, of the Easley Fire Department and Director of Greenville County Emergency Management, was sworn in as the 79th President of the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association.

During his address, President Womack expressed his gratitude to the Association's membership, Executive Committee, and the many speakers and exhibitors who contributed to the success of this year's conference. Before concluding the ceremony, President Womack congratulated the 2025 Meritorious Action Award recipients.



"As I step into this role, I am filled with a sense of purpose and pride. The Association represents not just firefighters, it represents integrity, service, and brotherhood. I am excited to help strengthen those values, to listen, to lead, and to keep building on the incredible foundation laid by those before me."

-Pierce Womack, President



Congratulations

*on your promotion to
Deputy Director!*



Kathy Opalacz

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Kathy Opalacz to the position of Deputy Director of Greenville County Emergency Management. This well-deserved advancement reflects her outstanding leadership, dedication to public service, and unwavering commitment to Greenville County.



GREENVILLE COUNTY DIVE RESCUE TEAM

THE GREENVILLE COUNTY DIVE RESCUE TEAM CONDUCTED TRAINING AT LAKE KEOWEE ON JUNE 20, 2025, FOCUSING ON SEARCH PATTERNS, UNDERWATER NAVIGATION, AND BODY RECOVERY OPERATIONS. THESE CRITICAL SKILLS ARE ESSENTIAL TO ENSURING TEAM MEMBERS ARE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO REAL-WORLD WATER EMERGENCIES, INCLUDING MISSING PERSON SEARCHES, SUBMERGED VEHICLE RECOVERIES, AND DROWNING INCIDENTS. THE TRAINING ALSO PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE SAFETY PROTOCOLS, STRENGTHEN TEAMWORK, AND MAINTAIN OPERATIONAL READINESS FOR COMPLEX UNDERWATER RESCUE AND RECOVERY MISSIONS.



Greenville County Long-Term Recovery Group Steering Committee



Ma'ta Crawford
LTRG Chair

Ma'ta Crawford, a native of Greenville, South Carolina, has devoted over 30 years to empowering individuals and strengthening communities through advocacy, mentorship, and strategic program development. With degrees in Human Services and Counseling, she has a lifelong passion for helping people navigate life's challenges-especially women facing transitions such as single parenthood, divorce, and personal growth.

As a certified life coach and Christian leader, Ma'ta founded Community Fresh Start (CFS), a nonprofit organization that delivers transitional housing, case management, and critical resources to individuals and families in need. In 2022 alone, CFS served more than 2,700 residents across the Upstate.

She has established partnerships with leading organizations including United Way, United Housing Connection, Greenville Homeless Alliance, and LiveWell Greenville, and has served as a Commissioner with the Greenville Human Relations Commission, promoting equity, financial literacy, and housing stability. Ma'ta has been recognized by her peers and community as the 2019 International Women's Day Recognition, 2021 Woman of Excellence, 2022 International Community Ambassador, 2023 Professional Maximizer, 2023 Martin Luther King Dream Keeper, 2024 HEAL Board Equity in Public Health Leadership Award. Currently, Ma'ta serves as Chairperson of the Greenville County Long-Term Recovery Steering Committee, where she continues to support disaster recovery efforts.

Susan Frantz
LTRG Vice Chair



Susan joined LiveWell Greenville in October 2018 and currently serves as the Food Security Director. In this role, she helped launch the Greenville County Food Security Coalition in 2020 alongside community partners. Since its inception, the Coalition has worked to build strong connections among residents and food system stakeholders to create a more equitable and sustainable local food system.

Greenville County Long-Term Recovery Group Steering Committee

A passionate advocate for community engagement and collective impact, Susan believes in the power of collaboration to drive systemic change. She has worked closely with both the healthcare sector and community-based organizations to strengthen food resource navigation within clinical settings-particularly in pediatrics-helping ensure families can access the food resources they need to thrive. Susan partnered with Furman University's Shi Institute to develop the Greenville County Food Insecurity Index Map-a valuable tool for identifying areas of greatest need and guiding resource allocation. She also supported the establishment of LiveWell Greenville's resident advisory board, the HEAL Board, which ensures community members help shape local food security strategies. She holds a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Maryland and remains committed to collaborative, community-led approaches that create meaningful, lasting change. Susan currently serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Greenville County Long-Term Recovery Steering Committee.

Nalisha Henry
LTRG Treasurer



With a heart for service that began in childhood and a belief in the power of community, Nalisha Henry's passion for public service has manifested into an impactful career. After graduation from Furman University, she obtained a Master of Public Administration from Clemson University. Nalisha has a robust background in the nonprofit sector and currently serves as vice president of community impact at United Way of Greenville County.

In her role she leads strategy and operations for United Way's multimillion-dollar portfolio of community investments and initiatives, while working to advance equity and economic mobility in Greenville County through collaboration and partnership. Nalisha has been recognized as one of Greenville's "Best and Brightest" by Greenville Business Magazine, "Young Professional of the Year" by Greenville Chamber, "Bridge Builder" by Bridges to a Brighter Future at Furman University, and "Top Ten Young Professional" by Upstate Network, and Campbell Scholar at Furman University. Nalisha is a member of Leadership Greenville Class 48, graduate of the Women's Leadership Institute at Furman University, and 2024 Change Leaders in Philanthropy fellow. Nalisha currently serves as the Treasurer of the Greenville County Long-Term Recovery Steering Committee.

Greenville County Long-Term Recovery Group Steering Committee



Jose Valdez
LTRG Secretary

Jose Valdez serves as a Disaster Case Manager with Lutheran Services Carolinas. In his role, he works closely with the Long-Term Recovery Groups, providing essential support by securing funding for unmet needs and connecting organizations with community resources to aid in disaster recovery efforts.

Prior to this role, Jose worked as a Service Coordinator, where he was dedicated to supporting the elderly population by helping them access vital services and resources within their communities. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services, which has provided a strong foundation for his passion for helping others and strengthening communities. Outside of work, Jose enjoys spending quality time with his son, playing basketball and coaching his flag football team. He is fluent in Spanish which enables him to connect with a broader range of individuals and families in need. Jose is proud to call South Carolina his home state and is grateful for the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those he serves. Jose currently serves as the Secretary of the Greenville County Long-Term Recovery Steering Committee.



STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER

BEACH SAFETY TIPS

BE SUN SMART

Wear sunscreen and protective clothing – including sunglasses – to protect against UV rays. And don't forget a hat!



Avoid staying in the sun for extended periods.

Seek shade under a tree or umbrella.

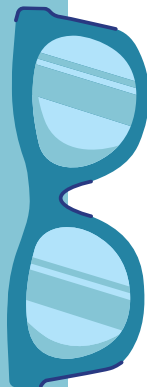


STAY HYDRATED

Drink water throughout the day to replace fluid lost to sweat & heat. Don't wait for extreme thirst to drink.

TAKE A FRIEND

Always swim with at least one friend – never swim alone in any beach or lake.



READ THE SIGNS

Read the beach safety signs and swim between flags or near lifeguards.



FIREWORKS SAFETY



NEVER
light fireworks
INDOORS
OR

NEAR DRY GRASS



Do not wear

LOOSE
CLOTHING

while using

FIREWORKS



ALWAYS HAVE

a bucket of
WATER

AND/OR

fire extinguisher

READY



Closely
SUPERVISE
CHILDREN

around fireworks

AT ALL TIMES



TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Course Name: Public Information Basics (E/L 105)

When: June 22-24, 2025

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: York County EOC - 149 W Black St. Rock Hill, SC 29731

[LMS Link](#)

Course Name: Mitigation Planning for Local and Tribal Communities

When: July 30-31, 2025

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Aiken County EOC - 1930 University Parkway, Suite 1100, Aiken, SC 29801

[LMS Link](#)

Course Name: Intermediate EOC Functions (G2300)

When: September 16-18, 2025

Time: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Location: Anderson County EOC - 200 Bleckley Street, Anderson SC 29625

[LMS Link](#)

Course Name: Emergency Planning (G235)

When: September 17-18, 2025

Time: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Aiken Department of Public Safety - 834 Beaufort St. NE, Aiken, SC 29801

[LMS Link](#)



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South Carolina Emergency Management Division Training: [Training Registration System](#).