



DECEMBER 2025

THE SITUATION REPORT

*The Official Newsletter of
Greenville County Emergency
Management*



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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

LAURA IVIE

Emergency Preparedness Manager



Meet our new Emergency Preparedness Manager, Laura!

Laura Ivie joined Greenville County Emergency Management in November 2025 as the Emergency Preparedness Manager, bringing with her an extensive background in fire service, EMS, and public safety coordination. With more than ten years of frontline experience, Laura has developed a strong foundation in emergency operations, incident response, and community education. Laura earned her degree in Business Management from Clemson University in 2013 and has since dedicated her career to public safety, emergency response, and community resilience.



Public service is deeply rooted in Laura's family as well—her husband Daniel proudly serves as a Lieutenant with the Greenville City Fire Department. When she's not working, Laura enjoys the peacefulness of life on their small farm, enjoying the company of their dogs. She also loves camping and exploring the outdoors, which she considers an important balance to her busy professional life. Her passion for preparedness and her roots in the local emergency services community make her a strong asset to Greenville County's Emergency Management team!



JOINT HELICOPTER AQUATIC RESCUE TRAINING



First responders from across the Upstate participated in a comprehensive, multi-agency emergency preparedness exercise with the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) during the week of November 3-7, 2025. Throughout the week, participating crews conducted a series of complex, scenario-based simulations at multiple locations across Greenville, Pickens, and Oconee Counties. These exercises replicated a diverse range of high-risk incidents—including water rescues, remote-area extractions, and large-scale disaster response operations—allowing teams to train under realistic conditions and evaluate their readiness. This regional training initiative was designed to enhance operational coordination, strengthen technical rescue capabilities, and improve interoperability among local, state, and regional response partners. Agencies from across the Upstate worked side by side with SC-HART personnel, reinforcing communication protocols, refining joint response strategies, and validating the effectiveness of existing emergency plans. By engaging in unified, hands-on training, participating agencies continue to build the critical relationships and shared competencies required to respond swiftly and effectively during real emergencies. The exercise highlights the Upstate's collective commitment to preparedness, public safety, and the protection of the communities we serve.



LOST HIKERS FOUND!

COORDINATED RESPONSE LEADS TO SAFE RECOVERY OF MISSING HIKERS

On the evening of November 24th, local, state, and SC Army National Guard aviation partners launched a unified search for four missing hikers lost in the Raven Cliff Falls area. The hikers were safely located around 2:30pm the following day.

This complex mission required numerous specialized teams working together across rugged terrain and challenging conditions. Agencies involved included:

Greenville County Sheriff's Office * Greenville County EMS/MedCom * Cedar Mountain FD * Glassy Mountain FD * Slater-Marietta FD * River Falls FD * Greenville County Emergency Management * Greenville County Special Operations Team * Oconee County Sheriff's Office * SC State Park Rangers * SLED * SCEMD * SC-HART (SC State Fire & SC Army National Guard-Aviation) * Foothills Search and Rescue * Carolina K-9 * YMCA Camp Greenville

Ground teams conducted methodical grid searches while air assets from GCSO Aviation, SLED, and SC-HART used Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) technology and drone imagery to locate the hikers. Once found, SC-HART performed a hoist rescue and transported them for medical evaluation and family reunification.

We extend our gratitude to every partner agency whose dedication, coordination, and professionalism made this mission a success. Their unified efforts underscore the strength and resilience of our community.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS 73RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Enhancing Emergency Management with Weather Data: Insights from Helene in Greenville County



At the 73rd Annual IAEM Conference, Pierce Womack, Director of Greenville County Emergency Management, and Jessica Stumpf, Public Safety Solution Engineer for Baron Weather, delivered a powerful presentation on how localized weather intelligence can transform emergency response decision-making. Focusing on Tropical Storm Helene and its impacts far inland from the Florida Panhandle, their session highlighted how Greenville County used advanced weather data to make rapid, life-saving decisions under pressure. Forecast models, satellite imagery, Doppler radar, and wind-speed analyses were all essential tools used to track Helene's trajectory and anticipate its impacts. This data directly informed major decisions such as when to issue public messaging, how to time evacuations along vulnerable rivers, when to open shelters, and when to temporarily halt emergency response operations for responder safety. Equally important, this real-time data shaped the county's ability to allocate resources for potential search-and-rescue operations once conditions improved. A key takeaway from the session was the value of integrating sophisticated weather analytics into emergency management workflows—not just during landfall, but throughout a storm's entire lifespan. Ultimately, the presentation offered attendees a practical look at how local emergency managers can use advanced forecasting tools to protect their communities. By dissecting real decisions made during Tropical Storm Helene—such as river evacuations, shelter management, pauses in 911 response, and the timing of re-engaging field operations—this session highlighted actionable lessons that can strengthen emergency management practices nationwide.

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WINTER WEATHER PREPARATION



Protecting Your Home In Winter Weather

Winter is coming...and so is that cold draft from your unsealed windows. Remember, a little prep now can go a long way!

- Insulate pipes with insulation, or even use newspapers and plastic to keep them protected.
- Check and service your HVAC system to ensure it's ready for colder temperatures.
- Clean out your gutters to prevent ice buildup.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for safety.
- Trim any branches that are close to your house to avoid ice-laden limbs damaging your siding or windows.
- Clean your chimney and order firewood for cozy fires all winter long!



TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Course Name: Recovery from Disaster: Local Community Role (G205)
When: December 16-17, 2025
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Location: Greenwood County EOC - 528 Monument St Ste B-24 Greenwood, SC 29646
[LMS Link](#)

Course Name: Fundamentals for Radiological Monitors & Emergency Workers
When: December 16, 2025
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Location: Greenville County Emergency Management Multipurpose Room - 225 S. Pleasantburg Dr. Greenville, SC 29607
[LMS Link](#)

Course Name: ICS/EOC Interface Workshop (G191)
When: January 13, 2026
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Location: Greenville County Emergency Management Multipurpose Room - 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](#).