



APRIL 2026

THE SITUATION REPORT

*The Official Newsletter of
Greenville County Emergency
Management*



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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

ANDY CHILDS

Radio Technician

Meet our new Radio Technician, Andy!

Andy Childs is joining Greenville County Emergency Management with nearly 20 years of experience in emergency services. Throughout his career, he has built a strong background in both the fire service and emergency management, developing a comprehensive understanding of disaster response, preparedness, mitigation, and recovery operations.

Andy has always had a deep passion for emergency communications and the critical role it plays in effective incident management. He proudly serves as a Communications Specialist with South Carolina Task Force 1 (SCTF-1), supporting coordinated response efforts during complex and large-scale incidents.

Committed to public service and operational excellence, Andy looks forward to bringing his experience, leadership, and dedication to Greenville County, where he is eager to continue strengthening emergency response capabilities and serving the community with professionalism and integrity.



Trainings and Exercises



Trench Training

The Greenville County Special Operations Team and Task Force 6 held a joint rescue training event at Berea Fire Department Station 9.

Participants focused on several critical skills including air monitoring, placing ground pads, placing trench panels, securing panels with paratech struts, and patient packaging and removal. Overall, the exercise provided valuable experience and reinforced the importance of teamwork, precision, and preparedness in emergency response operations.

Full State Scale Exercise

Greenville County Emergency Management recently hosted a hybrid workshop/tabletop in coordination with the statewide full-scale exercise. County partners collaborated in key areas, including Public Information, Communications, Logistics, and Command, to strengthen coordination, build working groups, and improve plans and procedures. GCEM extends sincere appreciation to all agencies and partners who participated, whose engagement and collaboration help ensure Greenville County is better prepared and more resilient as a community.



National Telecommunications Week April 12-18th



During telecommunications week we take time to recognize the dedicated professionals who serve as the first point of contact during emergencies. While they may not be seen on the front lines, they are often the very first first responders when someone calls for help.

These professionals gather critical information, provide lifesaving instructions, and coordinate the response of police, fire, and EMS teams. In moments of chaos and uncertainty, they bring clarity, reassurance, and direction to people experiencing some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Working in a fast-paces and high-pressure environment, emergency communications personnel must think quickly, communicate clearly, and remain focused while managing multiple tasks at once.

Telecommunications week is an opportunity to recognize the skill, professionalism, and compassion these individuals demonstrate every day. We extend our sincere appreciation to the professionals who serve our communities with dedication and care. Thank you for being the vital link between those in need and the responders who answer the call.



RECYCLING CENTER FIRE

Greenville County Emergency Management supported response operations during a large recycling facility fire on March 24, 2026, which required an extended, multi-agency response lasting into the following day. GCEM worked closely with on-scene partners to coordinate logistical support,



including communications equipment, fuel, traffic control resources, hydration, and food to sustain operations. More than 30 agencies, including 20 fire departments and regional partners, worked together to manage and contain the incident. Greenville County Emergency Management extends sincere appreciation to all responding agencies and supporting partners, whose coordinated efforts and dedication ensured a strong, sustained response and continued protection of the community.

TORNADOS

Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air that extend from a thunderstorm to the ground. Tornadoes can destroy buildings, flip cars, and create deadly flying debris.

Preparing for a Tornado:

- Know your area's tornado risk.
- Learn tornado warning signs (funnel cloud, debris cloud, loud roar).
- Sign up for emergency alerts.
- Monitor weather reports.
- Identify a safe shelter (basement or interior windowless room).
- Practice going to your shelter.
- Include pets in your emergency plan.
- Gather emergency supplies (food, water, medical items).



Staying Safe During a Tornado:

- Go to your safe location immediately.
- Listen to emergency alerts and instructions.
- Protect your head and neck.
- Use blankets or furniture for extra protection. Avoid driving if possible.
- If driving, move away from tornado if safe.
- If stuck in a car, stay belted and cover your head.
- If possible, lie in a low area below the road.
- Avoid sheltering under bridges.

TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Course Name: ICS 400 Advanced ICS (ICS400)

When: May 5-6, 2026

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Greenville County Emergency Management Multipurpose Room - 225 S. Pleasantburg Dr. Greenville, SC 29607

[LMS Link](#)

Course Name: EOC Operations and Planning (MGT 346)

When: May 12-13, 2026

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Greenville County Emergency Management EOC - 225 S. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville SC 29607

This is a 2 part registration; Step 1: register with the SCEMD LMS Link. Step 2: Register with the TEEX link (both must be completed to gain admittance into the course before April 10th)

[LMS Link](#)

[TeexPortal Link](#)

Course Name: Medical Management of CBRNE (Per 211)

When: July 7-8, 2026

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Greenville County Emergency Management Multipurpose Room- 225 S. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville SC 29607

This is a 2 part registration; Step 1: register with the SCEMD LMS Link. Step 2: Register with the TEEX link (both must be completed to gain admittance into the course before April 10th)

[LMS Link](#)

[TeexPortal Link](#)



Need to register for a training?

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