

SITUATION REPORT No. 6

Horry County Fire, April 2009

0800 April 25, 2009

South Carolina State Emergency Operations Center

2779 Fish Hatchery Road

West Columbia, SC 29172

Phone (803) 737-8500; Fax (803) 737-8570



TO: Governor's Office, Chief of Staff
SC State Agencies SERT Members
SC Counties
OTAG
FEMA, Region IV, Atlanta
FEMA, Region IV, Thomasville
GEMA
NCDEM
PIO, SCEMD

FROM: State Emergency Operations
Center (SEOC)

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER STATUS:

The State EOC was activated at OPGON 2 at 0630 on 04/23/09 in response to the fires in Horry County. ESFs 2, 4, 5, 15, 16, and 19 are activated. Offsite coordination with ESFs 6, 12, 13 and 17 is ongoing.

WEATHER:

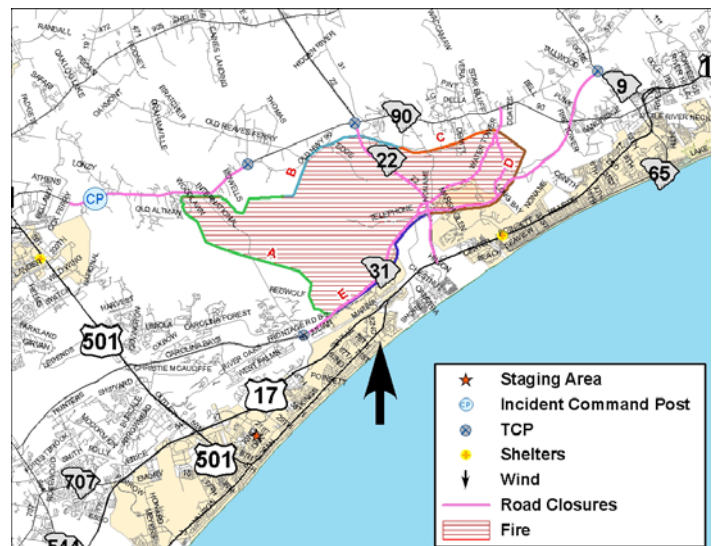
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming south between 12 and 15 mph. clear with patchy smoke.

Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 59. Wind from the south between 11 and 14 mph becoming light.

STATUS:

The Governor declared a State of Emergency for Horry County at 0900, April 23, 2009. South Carolina's request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant was approved on April 23. The fires in Horry County continue to burn. The State Forester has issued a state-wide outdoor burning ban. Forestry estimates that 20,500 acres have burned and the fire is 80% contained. A 700 acre fire has broken out on Sandy Island in Georgetown that has diverted a few assets. If this fire grows, it could further reduce the Horry County firefighting effort.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division is currently providing support to Horry



County with assistance from Department of Social Services, American Red Cross, Department of Transportation, the National Guard, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health and Environment Control, Department of Public Safety, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Labor Licensing and Regulation's Division of Fire Life Safety, South Carolina Forestry Commission, Budget and Control Board's State Division of Information Technology, and South Carolina Department of Public Safety/Highway Patrol.

The Horry County EOC is activated at OPCON 1. One Unified Command Post remains operational. International Fire Division and State Forestry are located at the Solid Waste Authority (1886 Hwy #90). North Myrtle Beach Division has closed its Incident Command Post at NMB Fire Station #5. The Pee Dee and Lowcountry Incident Management Teams have demobilized and returned home. The US Coast Guard Incident Management Team continues to support operations at the Horry County EOC.

The county is receiving support through firefighter mobilization, mutual aid, and North Carolina mutual aid. State Forestry has 75 personnel and equipment supporting fire fighting operations. A US Forest Service PB3 tanker aircraft made four drops in Horry County yesterday. The State Urban Search and Rescue Regional Response Team (Building Collapse) has demobilized. The Department of Transportation continues to use mobile highway signs and radio messages to reroute traffic due to road closures.

The South Carolina National Guard has one UH60 helicopter and North Carolina has four UH60 helicopters deployed to assist with fire fighting operations. As of 1615 yesterday, the five UH60s have flown 26 hours and dropped 320,000 gallons of water.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol continues to man four Traffic Control Points.

Currently there is no impact to electric and natural gas infrastructure.

The Budget and Control Board's State Division of Information Technology deployed with 75 800 MHz radios and has issued 36 to responders.

Currently only one shelter remains open - The House of Blues has one evacuee. Christ the Servant Lutheran Church and Loris Wellness Center (Special Medical Needs) are on standby and will re-open if needed. Several businesses and churches have volunteered to provide shelters for pets. Approximately 500 citizens are evacuated from their homes. Department of Mental Health has 4 behavioral health teams on call to support shelter operations. The American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and SC Baptist Disaster Relief prepared approximately 370 meals for evacuees and responders for breakfast, 590 for lunch, and 871 for dinner for a total of 1831 meals served yesterday. They planned for an additional 250 meals to be served as a midnight meal. Wal-Mart has donated a trailer load of supplies for evacuees. Hearts with Hands volunteer organization donated a trailer load of water and Gator-Aid to fire fighters and other responders. Other businesses have also donated water and other goods.

The county established a phone bank for local citizens to call in for information; they received 5200 phone calls in the first 24 hours.

The following fire fighting assets are deployed from 15 counties in addition to assets from Horry County:

- 16 - Engines
- 5 - Brush Trucks
- 8 - Command Officers
- 74 – Firefighters
- 3 - Tankers
- 2 - Firefighter Mobilization Coordinators

COUNTY STATUS:

County
Horry

Damage

Approximately 20,500 acres burned, approximately 69 homes destroyed and 100 with damage, eight automobiles have been destroyed.

Road Closures -1600 April 24, 2009:

SC31 from Grissom Parkway to SC 9 is closed due to the fire.
(Approximately 9 miles of hwy)

SC22 from SC90 to US17 (Approximately 4 miles of hwy)

SC90 from Secondary 901 to Bear Bluff Rd. (Approximately 8 miles of hwy)

Traffic Control Points

SC90 and Bear Bluff Road (trooper is directing traffic down Bear Bluff to Old Reaves Ferry)

SC9 and SC31 (Not allowing any traffic to travel south on SC31)

SC31 and Grissom Parkway (directing all northbound traffic to exit onto Grissom Parkway)

SC90 at SC22 (prohibiting all traffic from entering SC22 to travel east)

Available Shelters – April 24

The House of Blues - OPEN

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church - On Standby

Loris Wellness Center (Special Medical Needs) – On Standby

Temporary Housing

Horry County has established a temporary housing hotline for evacuees.
The hotline will be active Friday through Monday