
From: Haley, Nikki
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 5:03 PM
To: Schimsa, Rebecca
Subject: Re: EMD Alert - Georgetown Fire

Pass this info onto elected officials and leaders in the area.

----- Original Message -----

From: Schimsa, Rebecca
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 05:00 PM
To: Haley, Nikki; Haley, Michael; Pitts, Ted; Patel, Swati; Mayer, Doug; Taillon, Jeff; Symmes, Brian
Subject: RE: EMD Alert - Georgetown Fire

Governor's Action Items:

-Helped local officials establish a central relief fund for private donations ("Front Street Relief Fund" at any First Citizens branch) and organize a governing committee of local officials (city, county, chamber, and delegation); -Asked DEW to send a mobile SC Works group to meet one-on-one with affected citizens tomorrow; -Asked PRT to send officials to meet with local leadership on revitalizing the 700 Block for tourism next Tuesday; -Requested Graham and Scott's offices to research any federal funding that might be available (TBD); -Will be signing letters of thanks to the injured personnel (three firefighters and one police officer).

Future updates can be expected regarding:

- (1) future state or federal funding opportunities;
- (2) the cause of the fire at the close of ATF/SLED's investigation; and
- (3) the amount of donations made to the Front Street Relief Fund.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Schimsa, Rebecca
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 3:07 PM
To: Haley, Nikki; Haley, Michael; Pitts, Ted; Patel, Swati; Mayer, Doug; Taillon, Jeff; Symmes, Brian
Cc: 'leighlemoine@gov.sc.gov'
Subject: RE: EMD Alert - Georgetown Fire

Summary of the Call:

The cause of the fire is unknown as this time, but SLED and ATF are on the scene to investigate. The fire was contained within seven buildings in the middle of a stretch of 15 buildings along Front Street. An initial explosion and wind caused the flames to spread in both directions. Firefighters were able to save the Maritime Museum. Due to a lack of water, firefighters had to pump water directly out of the bay and are still doing so to be sure the fire will not reignite in the rubble. Structural stability is the greatest concern now.

The seven destroyed buildings are commercial and residential, with homes on the second and third stories. Several families were misplaced, by the ARC has secured them housing for tonight and the next several nights.

A couple of firefighters were hospitalized for heat exhaustion but were returned to work without injury. There was a report earlier in the day of a missing person, but all occupants have been accounted for. There are no other injuries or problems to report at this time.

Local officials and responders report that they have all of the people and resources they need - no needs are unmet. In addition, they report that there has been absolutely great support from the community as well as from state agencies present on the ground (Fire Marshall, DHEC, and SLED).

The only help requested from the Governor was (1) a visit as early as tomorrow (which is currently being scheduled); and (2) assistance down the road with FEMA and SBA assistance for possible funding or grant resources.

-----Original Message-----

From: Schimsa, Rebecca

Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 2:18 PM

To: Haley, Nikki; Haley, Michael; Pitts, Ted; Patel, Swati; Mayer, Doug; Taillon, Jeff; Symmes, Brian

Cc: 'leighlemoine@gov.sc.gov'

Subject: RE: EMD Alert - Georgetown Fire

For the call, additional attendees of note are Shane Ray, Chief Keel, Catherine Templeton, and Senator Yancey McGill.

***Unless I hear otherwise, this should be the last update before the 2:30pm call. My apologies for so many emails, but updates from the ground seem to be arriving every few minutes.

-----Original Message-----

From: Schimsa, Rebecca

Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 2:14 PM

To: Haley, Nikki; Haley, Michael; Pitts, Ted; Patel, Swati; Mayer, Doug; Taillon, Jeff; Symmes, Brian

Cc: 'leighlemoine@gov.sc.gov'

Subject: RE: EMD Alert - Georgetown Fire

Update from Shane Ray who is on the ground:

State Assistance: State Firefighter Mobilization (under Shane Ray, State Fire Marshall) has been activated providing Georgetown with an intrastate mutual aid system for response capability. Over 14 fire departments and around 200 firefighters are on the ground, and relief crews are rotating with crews that have been there all morning.

Damage: Seven buildings (seven businesses) were totally destroyed, and two additional buildings are damaged. The fire has also damaged the boardwalk on Front Street in the historic district. About twenty businesses in the nearby area are closed down because of the fire as the street is closed. Collapsed buildings pose a concern now, so fire crews would like to keep the street closed for safety precautions.

Injuries: Two firefighters were injured earlier in the day from a blast caused by the collapse of a building façade. It is not known if the injuries required hospital care.

Morale: It was a pretty hard fire fight the first couple of hours, but things seem to be under control now. Fire Chief Joey Tanner has been grateful for the Firefighter Mobilization help he's received and has bragged on that assistance to the media.

Concerns: Local government officials have expressed concerned about federal assistance and what may be available from FEMA, SBA, etc.

Note: Senator McGill arrived on the ground a short time ago.

-----Original Message-----

From: Schimsa, Rebecca

Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 1:31 PM

To: Haley, Nikki; Haley, Michael; Pitts, Ted; Patel, Swati; Mayer, Doug; Taillon, Jeff; Symmes, Brian

Cc: 'leighlemoine@gov.sc.gov'

Subject: RE: EMD Alert - Georgetown Fire

Here is the information on today's call at 2:30 p.m.

1. Please call the following access number: 800-753-1965
2. Please follow the voice prompts and, when asked, enter the Code 6543068 followed by the # key. You will be connected to the conference, if your Code is correct. If you are disconnected for any reason, repeat instructions above.

The Agenda will be:

- A. Opening Comments by Governor Haley
- B. Overview of the situation by Sam Hodge Georgetown EMD Director
- C. Incident Specifics by Joey Tanner, Georgetown Fire Chief
- D. Questions
- E. Closing Comments by Governor Haley

Georgetown Representatives expected on the call:

- Sam Hodge, Director, Georgetown County Emergency Management Division (he will open the brief)
- Joey Tanner, Georgetown City Fire Chief
- Paul Gardner, Georgetown City Police Chief
- Mayor Jack Scoville
- Brian Tucker, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce
- Chris Carter, Georgetown City Administrator
- Cindy Grace, Coordinator, Georgetown County Emergency Management Division

-----Original Message-----

From: Schimsa, Rebecca

Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 10:34 AM

To: Schimsa, Rebecca; Haley, Nikki; Haley, Michael; Pitts, Ted; Patel, Swati; Mayer, Doug; Taillon, Jeff; Symmes, Brian

Subject: RE: EMD Alert - Georgetown Fire

Update - Eight commercial buildings have been destroyed or partially destroyed. No fatalities or injuries have been reported.

The Governor's call with local leadership is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. today. I will send the call-in information and attendee list to everyone shortly.

From: Schimsa, Rebecca

Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 10:11 AM

To: Haley, Nikki; Haley, Michael; Pitts, Ted; Patel, Swati; Mayer, Doug; Taillon, Jeff; Symmes, Brian

Subject: EMD Alert - Georgetown Fire

Fire in Georgetown - Three buildings and ten businesses possibly affected. Flames may still be ongoing at this time.

No state assistance has been requested.

Per the Governor's request, a call with local leadership (Mayor, Fire Chief, Sheriff, and local emergency management) is being scheduled for this afternoon (between 2-3pm) or this evening (after 6pm) depending on the status of the fire throughout the day.

Information is still coming in to EMD, so future updates are expected. (Note - Depending on how many businesses have been affected, then the state may be requested to issue a SBA Disaster Declaration.)