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**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**Date:** 11/25/2016 5:52:46 PM  
**Subject:** Firefighting Update

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We just completed our daily conference call regarding the fire. The fire is believed to have been started from an unattended campfire. What was 200 acres on November 9 has grown to over 8,900 acres and is being fought by approximately 300 personnel daily. The South/Hwy 11 flank is believed to be contained. The West/Rocky Bottom flank is holding. The North/NC flank is uncontained. The East/Caesar's Head flank is slowly progressing.

There have been no structures damaged. More importantly, no deaths or injuries have occurred.

Yesterday, I was able to spend the day at the fire. These few things I learned will make you appreciate our community and thankful for others:

1. The out-of-state finance director stated this has been a cheap fire for its size totaling only \$2.6 million to date. The biggest cost savings has been food costs. A typical effort this size would cost \$20,000 per day. This fire has cost \$3,000 per day - a testament to our community.
2. Yesterday, a Chinook, Black Hawk, and 3 helicopters were being used on the East, Greenville flank. They needed a better location and a gentleman in Cleveland, SC allowed 10 acres of his land to be used as the new helipad. A Forestry worker from Colorado told me they typically lease land for \$1,000 per day. This gentleman wouldn't take but the required \$1 per day.
3. A group of 15-20 volunteers have been preparing, serving, and cleaning after the 300 personnel since the first day. This operation has grown into 50 pounds of bacon, 60 dozen eggs, and 15 pounds of grits each morning. During the day, 600 sandwiches are prepared for the following day. Then, dinner is prepared. These volunteers work from 4:30am until 10pm each day.
4. As far as firefighters, yesterday, I spoke to 2 dozen from Southern Oregon, 2 dozen from Idaho, a dozen from Utah, and SC Forestry has used personnel from over 30 of our 46 counties.

Unfortunately, the fire is here to stay until we receive substantial rain (ie 4 inches). What you can do to help people risking their lives for us:

1. You or a group can volunteer to serve a meal. You can sign-up here: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/4090e4aa9a823abfe3-pinnacle>
2. You can donate money by either donating to the gofundme page (<https://www.gofundme.com/firefighting-efforts-pickens-county>) or by dropping off money or a Sam's card at the Easley Fire Department.

3. You can stay up-to-date by following the Facebook pages of SC Forestry Commission, Easley Fire Department, and my political page as well this InciWeb page: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5108/>. There are some incredible photos and videos on these pages.

Sincerely,

Rep. Neal Collins

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