

Principal Media Contact: Caroline Reppert  
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC  
803-952-8367  
[caroline.reppert@srs.gov](mailto:caroline.reppert@srs.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SRS Firefighters Respond to 50 Emergencies in the CSRA** *Formal Agreements Assist with Battling Fires and Other Emergencies*

AIKEN, S.C. (July 28, 2015) – Behind the scenes of the big red trucks and the flashing lights, the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Fire Department has agreements in place for when extra assistance is necessary.

The Savannah River Site (SRS) has been a part of mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments, allowing them to share resources and manpower, since 1989. Today, the site's fire department has six mutual aid agreements: Aiken County Emergency Services (EMS), the Aiken County Fire Department, Allendale and Barnwell Counties in South Carolina, and Richmond and Burke Counties in Georgia.

Since SRNS became the management and operations contractor of SRS in 2008, SRNS personnel have responded to 50 emergencies in the community as a result of these agreements. In August 2014, SRNS entered into a written mutual aid agreement with Aiken County EMS for the first time.

“Aiken County appreciates the Savannah River Site providing emergency response assistance, when requested, alongside our EMS personnel, ensuring the most expedient service is available for all residents of our county, both inside or outside the gates of SRS,” said Tommy Thompson, Aiken County Emergency Services Director.



*On Tuesday, Jan. 27, SRNS firefighters responded to a train derailment and hydrochloric acid spill near Allendale, S.C. as part of a mutual aid agreement SRNS has with neighboring counties. Since 2008, SRNS has responded to 50 mutual aid calls in the CSRA.*

# News from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE • AIKEN • SC 29808

---

In the past year and a half, SRNS has responded to seven medical emergencies in Aiken County. The mutual aid agreement identifies the SRNS Fire Department as responsible for providing patient care and transport resulting from calls at the Cooperative Research Center, Aiken County Technology Laboratory, Applied Research Center and Hydrogen Technology Research Center (HRTL) located on Gateway Drive. To date, Aiken County EMS responded to one call at the HRTL, where SRS employees work just beyond the site border.

In addition to medical emergencies, mutual aid agreement calls for assistance from county fire departments include structure fires, wildfires and hazardous material spills. Most recently, SRNS personnel responded on a large scale to the Allendale train derailment and hydrochloric acid spill in January 2015.

“All of our people in the SRNS Fire Department are certified hazmat technicians. We have a lot of training and expertise that we make available to the community, so if they have an incident, then we have highly trained and capable people who are able to go and assist in the local area without having to wait for resources from farther away,” said Rob Still, SRNS Fire Department Chief.

Over 40 percent of SRNS firefighters volunteer with their local fire department. SRNS firefighter and Jackson Fire Department Chief Jeremy Thorne has been volunteering at county fire departments since 1995, and his volunteer path led him to work at the Savannah River Site.

According to Thorne, the SRNS Fire Department has assisted the area communities with a variety of emergency equipment and vehicles, both on land and water. SRNS has helped the Jackson Fire Department perform searches in the Savannah River by boat and has a heavy rescue truck equipped with confined space rescue, rope rescue, on-board breathing air and advanced vehicle extrication equipment (Jaws of Life), which may not otherwise be available to all volunteer departments in the area.

“Working at SRS helps me be a better firefighter on the outside. I’ve learned a lot since I’ve come to work out here – a lot of things you might take for granted. It’s not just the extra training opportunities available, but I’ve also learned how to keep the Jackson Fire Department more organized after experiencing the day-to-day operations at SRS,” said Jeremy Thorne, SRNS firefighter and Jackson Fire Chief.

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

Visit us on the web at [www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com](http://www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com)

SRNS- 2015 – 371

---