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For Immediate Release

Rescue ready; SRSFD demonstrates skills with annual Surface Water Rescue Training



SRSFD personnel stabilize the “victim” to deliver them from the water safely to shore.

AIKEN, S.C. – (July 16, 2024) – Savannah River Site Fire Department (SRSFD) performed their annual Surface Water Rescue training at Langley Pond Park, ensuring firefighters are equipped with the necessary knowledge to help in emergency situations.

During this training, firefighters conduct rescue boat operations, practice launching and docking the boat and rescuing victims from the water. Floating manikins are used to simulate victims in the water for firefighters to retrieve and maneuver onto a rescue boat so that spinal immobilization can be performed as they deliver them safely to shore.



Firefighters retrieve the practice manikin from the water and maneuver it into the boat.

“The SRSFD strives to deliver a premier level of service, which would not be possible without rigorous training,” said SRSFD Training Chief TJ Brown. “With minimal to no other water rescue assets close to SRS, the SRSFD assist multiple counties with surface water rescue operations on the Savannah River.”

SRS has been a part of mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments since 1989. Currently, the Site’s fire department has seven mutual aid agreements: Aiken County Emergency Services, the Aiken County Fire Department, Allendale and Barnwell counties in South Carolina, Richmond and Burke Counties in Georgia, and South Carolina State Mobilization.

The Mutual Aid Agreement between SRS and surrounding counties provides the community with ensured response in the event of an incident. The SRSFD responds to approximately 10 to 15 mutual aid calls each year. This agreement is reciprocal for SRS, meaning the SRSFD can also request the help of other local agencies should the Site need additional aid in an emergency.

“Everyday firefighters at SRS face evolving dangers in multiple disciplines from EMS, Fire, High Angle Rescue, Confined Space, Hazmat, Extrication, Water Rescue and so many more,” continued Brown. “Training is imperative to ensure we are constantly prepared for any and all emergencies.”



Once retrieved from the water and stabilized, the “victim” is taken to shore to receive necessary medical attention.

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