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**For Immediate Release**

## SRNS honors first responders for efforts during hurricane recovery

**AIKEN, S.C.** – (December 4, 2024) Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) recently recognized first responders who led recovery efforts at the Savannah River Site (SRS) during the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. The special appreciation event was attended by over 150 employees from Site Services, Business Services, Emergency Management, the SRS Fire Department (SRSFD), and the SRS Operations Center.



*Over 150 first responders were recognized during the Hurricane Helene Recovery Team Appreciation event at the Savannah River Site (SRS).*

In his keynote address, SRNS President and CEO Dennis Carr commended the team’s heroic efforts. “You mobilized swiftly to address extensive damage and repairs. In just two days, nearly all major roadways and railways had been cleared of downed trees and powerlines— a feat that would have been unattainable without your efforts.”

“Each of you stepped up to the challenge and did so safely, without injury,” said Donny Barfield, SRNS Director of Site Services in a video message. Barfield played a pivotal role in leading the Site’s emergency response and established the first “war room” that responded to on-site requests for the first eight days.

Matt Williams, SRSFD Battalion Chief, said, “SRSFD deployed multiple crews to clear trees, rescue trapped employees, and responded to numerous fire alarms and vehicle accidents. The dedication, skill, and bravery displayed by our personnel during this stressful event was second to none and I am honored to be a member of this department.”

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Carter Hopkins, SRNS Chief Financial Officer, highlighted the finance department's efforts, noting that despite the storm's disruption, the team met critical payroll deadlines and fiscal year deliverables.



*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) President and Chief Executive Officer Dennis Carr, right, provides beverages to first responders during the appreciation event.*

“The team put their issues at home on hold to join together and get this job done despite the lack of running water and resources,” said Hopkins. “People helping people is what it’s all about. In the middle of the madness, our employees remained focused and delivered.”

SRNS Emergency Management Amber Rodriquez discussed the importance of preparation, referencing a tabletop drill conducted in August with local and state agencies. “Although Helene was more severe than anticipated, our preparation and training paid off. Our response is a true testament to the drills and exercises we practice on our blue-sky days,” said Rodriquez.

The Hurricane Helene Recovery Team Appreciation event served as a powerful reminder of the resilience and teamwork that helped SRNS recover from one of its most challenging storms. To learn more about the Site's recovery efforts, click [here](#).

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

SRNS-2024-1561