

# News from the Savannah River Site

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRS Conducts Annual Live Burn Training

Aiken, S.C. – (June 23, 2017) – Annual live burn training for emergency responders at the Savannah River Site (SRS) is a multi-faceted exercise involving a simulated fire within a mock radiological facility. Four days of drills recently allowed 227 employees to train together from multiple Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) organizations to include the SRS Fire Department; Radiological Protection; Emergency Management; and facility Operations personnel.

The live burn drill was held at the Columbia County Fire Rescue Training Facility, near Augusta, Ga., which allows Fire Departments to fully exercise their abilities to properly respond to a fire in a variety of settings.

“What makes this event so valuable is the specialized, true-to-life training environment and learning to work effectively with multiple organizations,” said Kevin Whitt, SRNS Site Training Manager. “We want to ensure that all participants fully understand their roles and are comfortable performing them.”

While moving through a concrete “burn building,” firefighters must find and rescue a life-size training manikin, and then carrying the victim from the smoke-filled structure to the waiting ambulance, while other members of the team extinguish the flames.

“The most critical step for our firefighters is being aware of their surroundings during high intensity training,” said Travis Young, SRS Fire Department Training Captain. “Several of our buildings at SRS require the use of extinguishing agents other than water. Knowing which agent to use at that moment is critical. Upon arrival at the fire, we have to work quickly and closely with the Incident Commander to develop a plan of attack to take control of the scene.”



*A SRNS Radiological Protection inspector removes a firefighter's jacket and gloves during a simulated radiological incident at the annual “live burn” training exercise within a nearby fire and rescue training facility.*

An Incident Commander is responsible for directing all SRS support during the event from a command post a safe distance away from the contaminated area.

“When you are in a training activity like this, there are emotions involved, spirits are high and you lose that tactile ability with your hands, you really have to think through your process and what all is taking place,” said Young. “The Incident Commander is vital to the scene and ensuring that everyone is communicating, coordinating and working together to keep us safe.”

Once the victim is rescued, Radiological Protection inspectors (RPI) assist firefighters with relocating the victim safely from the contaminated area to a designated clean zone where the ambulance is located. The remaining RPIs will direct firefighters through the decontamination process once the blaze is extinguished.

“As inspectors, their goal is to successfully remove the firefighter from supplied air and gear in a manner that will protect the firefighter from the spread of contamination,” said Brad Turley, SRNS Radiological Protection Training Instructor.

This annual training allows Radiological Protection Department personnel to receive hands-on training on how to remove a firefighter from their gear in a safe manner. In turn, firefighters become familiar with the surveying and decontamination process.

The knowledge and experience gained through the drill is invaluable to ensure the safety of SRS emergency response personnel in the event of a fire involving radiological materials.

*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.*

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