

**S.C. State Firefighters' Association**  
**scfirefighters.org**  
**800-277-2732**

**Below is a recap from the Granite Mountain Lessons Learned workshop held on August 12, 2014 in Columbia, S.C.**

- I. LAST Trailer

The Association should purchase and stock a unit (or regional units) to mobilize the cache of equipment currently owned and needed for future growth.

  1. An inventory is needed from other LAST teams as to what could be used on these trailers.
  2. For marketing purposes, the trailer should be wrapped and taken around the state to local meetings.
  
- II. Networking and marketing

The function and purposes of the LAST efforts should be marketed statewide to fire service personnel.

  1. The LAST efforts, and funeral services assistance, must be relevant to local needs and stay relevant to its customers.
  2. To market the program, LAST should attend meeting at state fire schools (other, etc.)
  3. A staffed table, by LAST members, should be at every conference
  4. The LAST logo should be present in all newsletters, mailers, of the Association.
  5. The creation of a web site / page should be produced to capture marketing tools for the team.
  
- III. Diversity on the LAST

Composition of the team is vital to reach and serve the diversity of the Association. Diversity will help ensure empathy and understanding.

  1. Team dynamics must be explored and ensured to allow comfort by the local responders when using the team.
  2. Representation from different fire disciplines, paid and volunteer must be ensured.
  
- IV. Stress on Family Liaisons

Notable was the stress that the Liaisons encountered in long deployments and in dealing with families after the events. Care should be taken and thoughts offered as to the use and deployment schedule of liaisons.

  1. AZ has three per family
  2. AZ liaisons are always at planning meetings

V. LAST Call Up Protocol

Once a resource is called for, how does the team get notifications? How is the team mobilized and demobilized. Operation protocols are needed to ensure functionality beyond one person or group of persons.

1. The need exists for better marketing of how this works and will work, possibly through sharing online or the website
2. Written documentation must be established to ensure all understand and can function within the system.

VI. Plan B

In multiple deployment situations or in large-scale situations or in the event that centralized Association staff is not available, what is the plan?

1. All LAST team members should be training in all LAST functions
2. This training will prepare for those eventualities as above described.
3. AZ is putting together a guide, which could be possibly used.

VII. Team ID's

Noted was the need for a clear identification methodology for team members when responding to or while on deployment.

1. ID cards, shirts, vests – the exploration of all these thoughts are needed.

VIII. Deployment Financing

In the event of a small or large deployment model, who will pay? Clearly articulating who will assume financial responsibility is needed.

1. The Association will bear some of the costs, but locals are also responsible. The Association has a small general ledger line item within its budget.
2. SCFIS has a LODD benefit that may help fund some costs of a line of duty incident.
3. Funeral expenses versus deployment expenses need to be separately considered. (AZ has estimated a \$3,500 team cost per call for LODD)
4. The SC Firefighters Foundation needs better funding to provide for some of these expenses.

IX. External Partners

Other state assets exist and if they have been or are being trained and tapped should be asked.

1. EMD, State Forestry, etc., are all examples.

X. Pre-Deployment Readiness

All assets should regularly train to better prepare for eventualities.

XI. Lessons Learned

Capturing all prior and future in state events with hot washes and documentation to improve upon lessons learned.