

South Carolina Forestry Commission



Experts by Topic

Recent wildfires and drought conditions are not mutually exclusive. The effects of South Carolina's climate trends are far reaching and impact all aspects of forestry, timber production, tree health and wildfire suppression. Below is a list of agency personnel best equipped to aid media in their coverage. All of these experts may be contacted directly or through the Public Information Director's office at 803-896-8820.

Paul Watts, Fire Chief, SC Forestry Commission

Wildland fire, fire threats with relation to long-term and short-term weather conditions

803-896-8837

Laurie Reid, Insect and Disease specialist

Drought's effects on tree health, threats from opportunistic insects for stressed trees and forest land.

803-896-8820

Liz Gilland, Urban Forestry Coordinator

Drought tolerance of SC trees, tree care in hot weather, drought's effects on tree health, consultant for county/city governments managing tree health/care on public properties

803-896-8820

Darryl Jones, Forest Protection Chief (also a member of the SC State Drought Response Committee)

Drought effects at the state level, forest health, status of SCFC-owned state forests, effects of drought on wildlife (particularly endangered species on state lands), drought response committee news

803-896-8817

Scott Hawkins, Public Information Director, SC Forestry Commission

803-896-8820