



# PRESS RELEASE

Public and Media Relations Department

(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020

### **Statement from City Manager Regarding Death of an Employee during Tropical Storm Irma**

It is with a very heavy heart that I must announce the loss of one of our City of Columbia employees. Assistant Superintendent Arthur D. Strudwick, while en route to a downed tree, was critically injured in a single vehicle accident. The accident occurred during the height of last night's storms. Arthur was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Arthur was employed with the Forestry and Beautification Division of the Public Works Department. He was a dedicated public servant with the City of Columbia since 12/11/2001.

Many people are aware of the sacrifices made by those who work in public safety departments, however only a few people realize that our staff in Public Works are also considered first responders during an emergency or crisis situation. These employees are considered essential and report for duty in all conditions in order to serve the needs of the public.

Arthur was a wonderful employee who always maintained a positive attitude and cooperative spirit. He will be missed by his co-workers and colleagues at the City of Columbia. Everyone is deeply saddened by this devastating loss. Grief counselors are assisting staff.

Our condolences and prayers go out to the Strudwick family during this

period of bereavement.

Please keep the City of Columbia family in your thoughts as well during this difficult time.

Flags will be flown at half-staff at all City buildings in tribute and in memory of Arthur.

Teresa Wilson  
City Manager

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