



SC Emergency Response Task Force System

SC State Fire's Emergency Response Task Force System is governed by SC Firefighter Mobilization and the Emergency Response Task Force Plan, operating under the SC State Fire. The System includes SC-Task Force 1, five regional Urban Search and Rescue Teams, the SC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team, and the Palmetto Incident Support Team.

SC FIREFIGHTER MOBILIZATION

The SC Firefighter Mobilization Act was signed in July 2000. It is a statewide emergency response system designed to coordinate and deploy in-state fire and rescue resources during large-scale emergencies, disasters, and incidents that exceed the capabilities of the local jurisdiction. The program allows fire departments across the state to request personnel, apparatus, equipment, and specialized teams. This enables a structured and efficient response by organizing and coordinating resources through a statewide coordinator.



SC Firefighter Mobilization does not replace any local mutual aid agreements; rather, it enhances them by providing statewide aid and acting as a force multiplier.

URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE



Formed in 2004, SC-Task Force 1 serves as the state's Type I, all-hazards Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) team, providing a coordinated response to disasters in both urban and rural areas. Skilled in locating and extricating victims in all environments, SC-Task Force 1 is capable of responding to disasters including earthquakes, hurricanes, widespread tornadoes, and man-made technological and terrorist events.

Additionally, there are five Type IV regional US&R teams across the state recognized through the Emergency Response Task Force Plan:

SC-Task Force 2: based at Myrtle Beach Fire Department

SC-Task Force 3: based at Charleston Fire Department

SC-Task Force 4: based at Hilton Head Fire/Rescue

SC-Task Force 5: based at Columbia Fire Department

SC-Task Force 6: based at Greenville Fire Department

SC HELICOPTER AQUATIC RESCUE TEAM

The SC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) was established in 2009 through a collaborative effort among SC-Task Force 1, under the direction of SC State Fire, the SC Emergency Management Division, the 59th Aviation Troop Command of the SC Army National Guard, and in 2025, the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED).



The SC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team comprises trained professional rescuers from SC-Task Force 1, as well as highly trained pilots and crew members from the SC Army National Guard, forming a cohesive unit capable of performing rescues using the UH-60 Black Hawk and LUH-72 Lakota helicopters. SLED provides highly trained pilots and crew members using the Bell 412 helicopter.

The interagency cooperation and the blending of the military and civilian teams are among the primary successes of the SC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team program.

PALMETTO INCIDENT SUPPORT TEAM



Formed in 2019, the Palmetto Incident Support Team is a group of highly qualified incident management specialists, readily available for rapid mobilization and deployment to a disaster area. The Palmetto Incident Support Team augments incident management efforts by providing subject matter expertise to existing command and control operations during incidents or events that could require large-scale search and rescue or firefighting resources. The team provides technical and strategic consultation, incident command assistance, management and coordination of tactical resources, and logistical support.

Trained and qualified as an all-hazards Incident Management Team, the Palmetto Incident Support Team is capable of providing incident support for a wide range of incident types and complexities.

Questions? Contact [Amy Williamson](#)

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