

## South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) Fact Sheet

- The South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team is a collaborative effort between South Carolina-Task Force 1 (SC-TF1) under the direction of S.C. State Fire, the S.C. Emergency Management Division, and the 59th Aviation Troop Command (59th ATC) of the S.C. Army National Guard, with helicopter units from Joint National Guard Base (JNGB) McEntire, Eastover, and from Donaldson Center, Greenville.
- SC-HART has trained professional rescuers from SC-TF1, and highly-trained pilots and crew members from the S.C. Army National Guard that form a cohesive unit capable of performing rescue using the UH-60 Black Hawk and LUH 72 Lakota helicopters.
- The interagency cooperation, and the blending of the military and civilian teams, is one of the primary successes of the SC-HART program.
- SC-HART is available 24/7.
- SC-HART trains continuously throughout the year to remain proficient and prepared.
- Training and performance standards for SC-HART members are stricter than anything the military or fire service requires.



### All Hazards Capabilities:

- Hoist Operations
- Land or Water Based
- Swift Water/Mountain
- Open Water
- Ambulatory/Non-Ambulatory

### Background:

- The SC-HART partnership between the S.C. Army National Guard and S.C. State Fire began in 2009.
- SC-HART is one of ten teams in the United States, including North Carolina and Texas.
- SC-HART has deployed for every hurricane for which South Carolina mobilized people, including Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and Hurricane Florence in 2018.
- SC-HART deployed to perform rescue missions during the Thousand-Year Flood in 2015, as well as countless individual rescues in difficult circumstances or terrain.

For additional information on the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team, please contact Amy Williamson ([amy.williamson@llr.sc.gov](mailto:amy.williamson@llr.sc.gov) or 803-429-4201) and visit <https://statefire.llr.sc.gov/ertf/schart.aspx>

