



Formed in 2004, SC-Task Force 1 (SC-TF1) is an all-hazards Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) team that provides a coordinated response to disasters in urban and rural areas. Skilled in locating and extricating victims in all environments, SC-TF1 is capable of responding to disasters including earthquakes, hurricanes, widespread tornadoes, and man-made technological and terrorist events.

SC-Task Force 1 is part of SC State Fire's Emergency Response Task Force System, along with, five Regional Urban Search and Rescue Teams, the SC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team, and the Palmetto Incident Support Team. The Emergency Response Task Force System is governed by the SC Firefighter Mobilization Plan. The personnel that make up SC-TF1 represent many emergency service organizations in the state.

### SUPPORTING THE MISSION

SC State Fire is responsible for providing essential services and support to protect lives and property through fire prevention, training, and emergency response efforts. State Fire's mission focuses on safeguarding communities by preparing first responders and implementing measures to prevent and respond to incidents. SC-TF1 supports SC State Fire's mission by providing specialized search and rescue capabilities during disasters and emergencies. Their expertise in technical rescue operations helps protect lives and property across the state, and nationwide.

### SC-TASK FORCE 1 CAPABILITIES

- Physical search and rescue operations in damaged/collapsed structures and flood/swift water environments
- Technical search of collapsed structures, using search cameras and seismic/acoustic listening devices
- Wide-area search
- Emergency medical care for entrapped survivors, task force personnel and search canines
- Documented primary, secondary, and/or rapid/hasty searches of large areas, including initial damage observations using US&R criteria and definitions (\*\*Not damage assessments for public assistance.\*\*)
- Assessment/shut-off of utilities to houses and other buildings
- Structural/hazard evaluations of buildings to determine if safety concerns exist
- Stabilizing damaged structures, including shoring and cribbing operations on damaged buildings
- Communications support, from pre-deployment until demobilization

### SC-TASK FORCE 1 RESPONSE MODELS

Each type and kind is designed to provide scalable response options based on the severity and complexity of an incident:

- Type 1 US&R Task Force: The largest and most capable team, consisting of 70+ personnel and specialized equipment for comprehensive search and rescue operations, including heavy structural collapse.
- Type 2 US&R Task Force: The same as a Type 1 US&R Task Force, minus the CBRNE component.
- Type 3 US&R Task Force: A mid-sized team with approximately 35 personnel, capable of conducting rescue operations in moderately damaged structures with fewer logistical requirements. Same capabilities as a Type 1 US&R Task Force, but with fewer personnel, which limits capacity and work cycles.
- Type 4 US&R Task Force: A smaller team of 22+ personnel designed for light search and rescue operations, such as light frame structures.
- Mission-Ready Packages (MRPs): Specialized, pre-configured response packages tailored for specific needs, such as canine search, technical search, logistical support, or structural assessments.
  - Water Operations: At least 14 members of each 70-member, Type I US&R task force are trained for flood and swift water rescue missions, capable of conducting operations in water-based environments, including hurricanes and floods. These self-sufficient teams can be deployed as a Water Rescue MRP to help reach and recover survivors by flood waters.

### DEPLOYMENT/REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

- The local emergency manager may request assistance in support of a pending disaster, post disaster, or any other need requiring US&R specialties.
- The team is equipped and ready to deploy within four hours in various response models.

SC State Fire is proud to have SC-Task Force 1 available and always at the ready to serve.

Questions? Contact [Amy Williamson](#)