



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE

a Division of South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Palmetto Incident Support Team

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Formed in 2019, the Palmetto Incident Support Team (IST) comprises highly qualified specialists who can be rapidly mobilized and deployed to disaster areas. The IST augments incident management efforts by providing subject-matter expertise to existing command-and-control operations during incidents or events. The team provides technical and strategic consulting, incident command assistance, management and coordination of search-and-rescue teams, and logistical support. Trained and qualified as an all-hazards Incident Management Team, the IST is capable of providing incident support for a wide-range of incident types and complexities.

The Palmetto IST is part of the SC Emergency Response Task Force System, along with SC Task Force 1, five Regional Urban Search and Rescue teams, and the SC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team. The SC Firefighter Mobilization Plan governs the SC Emergency Response Task Force System.

In 2025, the Palmetto IST became the fourth team in the nation to be selected by FEMA to serve as a Supplemental Response Team (SRT). FEMA's SRT program identifies highly trained incident management teams capable of providing planning, command, coordination, and logistical support during disasters that exceed local and state capacity. Teams are selected based on their operational performance, advanced training, and ability to integrate into federal response structures. This milestone reflects the team's proven expertise in incident management and its ability to support large-scale disaster operations nationwide. For more information on FEMA's SRT designation, [click here](#).



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. The Palmetto IST supports SC State Fire's mission by providing expert incident management and coordination during complex emergencies, ensuring structured and efficient use of resources to save lives and protect property. Through scalable support, interagency coordination, and preparedness training, the team strengthens local response capabilities across South Carolina.

TEAM CAPABILITIES

- **Rapid Deployment:** With 80% of the team members consisting of SC State Fire employees, the Palmetto IST can mobilize swiftly to address incidents effectively.
- **All Hazards Incident Management:** The Palmetto IST is adept at managing diverse emergencies, including natural disasters and large-scale public events, ensuring organized and efficient responses.
- **Search and Rescue Coordination:** The Palmetto IST plays a pivotal role in coordinating search and rescue missions across the state, collaborating with various agencies to optimize outcomes.
- **Local Support:** The Palmetto IST provides essential incident management assistance to local agencies.
- **SC Task Force 1 Integration:** As part of the SC Emergency Response Task Force System, the Palmetto IST collaborates with other specialized teams to deliver comprehensive emergency services.

DEPLOYMENT/REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

- A small command element of the IST automatically deploys when SC Firefighter Mobilization is requested. The team is scalable and can right-size its response based on the incident's size and complexity.
- The IST deploys in support of Emergency Support Functions 4 and 9, during declared disasters.
- The team is equipped and ready to deploy within one hour.

SC State Fire is proud to have the Palmetto IST available and always at the ready to serve.

Questions? Contact [Amy Williamson](#)