

## He Doesn't Understand, He Has Autism

The number of encounters between first responders and individuals on the autism spectrum is steadily increasing. This lecture-based workshop will help responders recognize the signs of autism in an individual while learning ways to communicate and engage people of varying abilities. Attendees will gain knowledge to create a foundation for positive interactions with this differently-abled population. The de-escalation techniques covered apply to emotionally charged situations in various emergency settings.

Attendance is open to all active South Carolina fire, police, EMS, and dispatch personnel.

### Registration Information

**Date:** Wednesday, May 3, 2023  
**Time:** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch is on your own.  
**Location:** South Carolina Fire Academy, Denny Auditorium  
141 Monticello Trail  
Columbia, SC 29203

**Registration Fee:** \$5 (Agencies will receive an invoice for "no show" students.)

**Registration:** 8543-23-001 <https://fire.llr.sc.gov/Portal/Registration/registration.aspx?crsidnt=78091>

**Note:** When completing your registration, you will be prompted to enter your Fire Department name. Click to search, and select the appropriate agency. If your agency is not listed, contact [amy.williamson@llr.sc.gov](mailto:amy.williamson@llr.sc.gov).

### About the Presenter

**Amber Woodward** works with Aiken County EMS as a captain and paramedic. She has worked there for 14 years, beginning as a Basic EMT and moving up the ranks. As a Field Training Officer and Shift Supervisor, Amber has dedicated her professional life to instructing other EMS personnel.

After her son was diagnosed with autism spectrum condition, she discovered a new passion that brought her personal and professional lives together for a single purpose. She currently instructs emergency personnel from all disciplines on how to identify, communicate with, and interact with individuals on the autism spectrum during an emergency encounter. Amber has a Bachelor of Science in Disaster and Emergency Management and is completing her MBA in Public Administration.



**Questions?** Contact [Amy Williamson](mailto:amy.williamson@llr.sc.gov)