SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE

Single Collapse Site Urban Search & Rescue Response: Identifying and Mitigating Structural Hazards

This *virtual* presentation is geared toward all task force positions for situational awareness during single collapse site Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) responses. This presentation discusses how US&R personnel may identify information quickly and efficiently, in order to implement effective during the operational period. Attendees of will review the anatomy of a single collapse US&R response from the perspective of how structural hazards affect strategy and tactics, as well as how the structural hazard assessment, LCES process, resource requests, and establishment of a functional battle rhythm contribute to the success of the mission's plan. Following the presentation, the attendee will better understand how to identify, assess, mitigate, and communicate structural hazards associated with single collapse sites, through teamwork and engagement within the ICS.

Attendance is *free* and open to all active South Carolina fire service and Urban Search & Rescue team members.

Registration Information

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Registration Link: 8679-25w01 https://fire.llr.sc.gov/Portal/Registration/registration.aspx?crsidnt=84093
Registration Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025

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.

About the Presenter

Heather Anesta is a Structures Specialist (StS) on Florida Task Force 1, a StS Alternate on the FEMA Incident Support Team, and a member of the FEMA Advisory Organization Structures Subgroup (SSG). As Leader of the SSG Communications & Outreach Committee, and as StS Coordinator for FL-TF1, she strives to facilitate group discussion, coordination, and collaboration on lessons learned and practical implementation of the Structures Specialist position within ICS and US&R Task Forces. She has responded as a StS to Hurricane Florence (2018), Hurricane Dorian (2019), the Surfside Building Collapse (2021), Hurricane Ida (2021), Hurricane Ian (2022), Hurricane Idalia [IST] (2023), New Mexico Wildfires [IST] (2024), Hurricane Helene (2024), and Hurricane Milton (2024). She has performed structural evaluations of damaged structures following Hurricanes Matthew (2016), Irma (2017), Florence (2018), Michael (2018), Dorian (2019), Sally (2020), Ian (2022), Helene (2024), and Milton (2024). In her day job, she is a Professional Engineer (PE) and Buildings Structural Engineer (SE). She works primarily as a Structural Engineer and Consultant for Conventional (Tear-down) Demolition Projects, Structural Condition & Failure Assessments, and as a Structural Designer for new construction, repairs, and renovations. She serves as the Chair of the National Standard for the Structural Condition Assessment of Existing Buildings (ASCE 11-28), the Chair of the Wind Components & Cladding Chapter of the National Standard for the Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures (ASCE 7-28 Chapter 30), and as a Voting Member of the Florida Building Commission Existing Building Inspection Workgroup (FBC EBIWG).

Questions? Contact Amy Williamson

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