



South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



Office of State Fire Marshal

141 Monticello Trail
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: (803) 896-9800
FAX: (803) 896-9806

Henry D. McMaster
Governor

Emily H. Farr
Director

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PRESS RELEASE

Point of Contact

Amy Williamson, Public Information Officer
Palmetto Incident Support Team
S.C. State Fire
Cell #: 803-429-4201
Email: amy.williamson@llr.sc.gov

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<https://www.facebook.com/SCGuard>

SC-HART Training For Challenging Rescues

CHARLESTON, S.C. – The South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) begins their quarterly training exercise today, and it will continue through Thursday.

Pre-scripted daytime exercise scenarios will include marine and helicopter operations utilizing emergency services personnel acting as survivors. The focus of these exercise scenarios will be water search and rescue in-and-around the Stono River and Charleston Harbor.



Training and performance standards for SC-HART members are stricter than anything the military or fire service requires. The team trains together four times a year, and these training exercises are designed to be more difficult, so that the team is fully prepared for real-world missions.

There are more than 30 federal, state, county, and local agencies participating in this training exercise, with St. John's Fire District being the primary local jurisdiction. Agency partnerships are key to the overall success of this quarterly training exercise. Each brings a diverse range of knowledge, skills, and specialized expertise that greatly enhance the learning experience for all team members and participants.

Direct any questions about this release to Amy Williamson, Public Information Officer for the Palmetto Incident Support Team, 803-429-4201.

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Media will be given access to approved images and video taken during the exercise. Please contact Amy Williamson for access instructions.

The South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) is a collaborative effort between the State Urban Search and Rescue Task Force (SC-TF1) under the direction of S.C. LLR, Office of the State Fire Marshal, S.C. Emergency Management Division and the South Carolina Army National Guard Aviation Unit based at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. SC-HART has highly trained professional rescuers, pilots, and crew members that form a cohesive unit capable of performing helicopter rescue using the UH-60 Black Hawk and LUH 72 Lakota. SC-HART has all hazards capabilities, is available 24/7, and responds at no cost (in-state) to the requesting agency. For additional information on the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team, please contact Amy Williamson at amy.williamson@llr.sc.gov, and visit <https://statefire.llr.sc.gov/ertf/schart.aspx>.



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