



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

June 8, 2023

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

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

Quarterly SC-HART Training Possible Through Partnerships

CHARLESTON, S.C. – The South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) continues their quarterly training exercise today in Charleston, with activities concluding in the early evening.

The scenario-based training focuses on aquatic rescue proficiency and operational capability for aircrews and rescuers. There is an emphasis on environmental challenges specific to the lowcountry region. Today’s training focus is on water search and rescue in-and-around the Stono River, Abbaoola Creek, and the Kiawah River.



More than 30 federal, state, county, and local agencies have provided personnel and/or resources to make this training exercise successful. A few of these are:

- Black Hawk and Lakota helicopters, and aircrews, provided by the South Carolina Army National Guard
- Unified command bus provided by Charleston County Emergency Management Department
- More than a dozen marine units, some of which are provided by St. Paul’s Fire Department, City of Charleston Police Department, U.S. Coast Guard, St. John’s Fire District, Charleston County Rescue Squad, and SC-Task Force 1
- Medical support provided by City of Charleston Fire Department

Complicated training exercises are not possible without partnerships with other agencies. Their assistance this week enables almost 200 team members and participants to receive technical emergency response training and education that would have otherwise been impossible.

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

-end-

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>.



NATIONALGUARD.com/SC