

South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team Fact Sheet

- The South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team 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 Army National Guard Aviation Unit based at McEntire.
- SC-HART has trained professional rescuers from SC-TF1 and highly-trained pilots and crew members from the Army National Guard that form a cohesive unit capable of performing helicopter rescue using the UH-60 Black Hawk and LUH 72 Lakota.
- SC-HART is available 24/7 and responds at no cost (in state) to the requesting agency.



SC-HART has All Hazards Capabilities:

- Hoist Operations
- Land or Water Based
- Swift Water/Mountain
- Ambulatory/Non-Ambulatory

Background:

- The SC-HART partnership between the S.C. National Guard and S.C. State Fire began in 2009.
- SC-HART is one of three teams in the United States, including North Carolina and Texas.
- SC-HART conducts four training exercises annually, with the Summer exercise being the culminating event just prior to peak of hurricane season.
- Training and performance standards for SC-HART members are stricter than anything the military or fire service requires.
- SC-HART deployed to perform rescue missions during the Thousand-Year Flood in 2015, Hurricane Harvey in 2017, as well as countless individual rescues in difficult circumstances or terrain.

For additional information on the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team, please contact Amy Williamson (amy.williamson@llr.sc.gov or 803-429-4201) and visit <https://statefire.llr.sc.gov/ertf/schart.aspx>

