South Carolina Urban Search & Rescue
Technology & Response...A Winning Combination
Overview

• South Carolina Task Force 1 (SC-TF1) is made up of 120 dedicated volunteers from various Fire Departments across South Carolina.

• SC-TF1 is housed at the State Fire Academy in Columbia, SC.

• SC-TF1 is under the SC Emergency Response Task Force (SC-ERTF) which host three programs.
  • Firefighter Mobilization (FFMOB)
  • South Carolina Task Force One (SC-TF1)
  • South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART)
SC-ERTF

• The SC-ERTF is operated by three full time employees, 1 part time employee and 5 temporary employees.
  • Asst. State Fire Marshal over ERTF – Ken Kerber
  • Program Manager (Section Chief) – Shon Hamilton
  • Program Coordinator (Branch Chief)- Chad Beam
SC Office of the State Fire Marshal

- The SC-ERTF is one of three divisions under the SC Office of State Fire Marshal.
  - South Carolina Emergency Response Task Force (SC-ERTF)
  - State Fire Academy
  - Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
Hurricane Florence

• SC-TF1 was deployed for 21 days.

• The response consisted of 6 counties within SC.

• The response was majority water rescue initially with 400+ boat operations.

• As the response transitioned into a search mission, we were using antiquated methods for confirming areas.
Hurricane Florence

• As the mission focused on three main counties, we knew that we would have to provide adequate information in order to ensure everything was checked thoroughly.

• Teams operating in the area
  • SC-TF1
  • EMAC Teams (Louisiana and Tennessee)
  • 2 FEMA Teams
  • Coast Guard
  • Multiple County Teams (local)
Hurricane Florence

• With 300+ rescuers, we were duplicating efforts, crossing paths and unable to truly verify that a certain area had been searched and marked.

• This is where technology comes into play.

• SC-TF1 began to use Survey 123
Hurricane Florence

• We were taught Survey 123 on the fly...literally.

• Once we understood the basics, we sent this out to the field and they began to use it, this was all done within 24 hours.

• Every team operating in the field (including FEMA and Coast Guard) began to use it.

• Our data quickly began to come in and it was verifiable data...good data in, good data out...that’s important in this situation.
SAR Field Data Collection

Submitted By: grp7132
Submitted Time: Sep 27, 2018, 8:28:52 PM

Team Name
sctf4 boat 1

Your Name
Eric Lainhart

Location
Lat: 33.67396 Lon: -79.1423

USNG
17S PT 7221 2755
Waypoint:
Damage

mgrs
17SPT7221927554

Type of Damage
Damaged

Structure Type:
Residential

Photo 1

waypoint_Photo1-20180927-171259.jpg
Lessons Learned

• Involve Technology
• Never be afraid to learn...no matter the situation
• Include this within any planning for any disaster
• GIS works!
Thank You
Contact Info

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