

Press Release

from the South Carolina Forestry Commission



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SCFC sends 17 to assist with Hurricane Harvey response, relief *Agency's incident management team deployed to Texas coast*

Responding to a request from the US Forest Service, the South Carolina Forestry Commission is sending 17 members of its Incident Management Team (IMT) to assist with Hurricane Harvey flood recovery efforts. With its extensive Incident Command System (ICS) training, the team will be providing organizational structure to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of relief operations.

The SCFC IMT left Columbia for College Station, Texas, Tuesday, Aug. 29, where they will await their official assignment, the location and

nature of which is not yet known. It is likely the team will be used to staff and operate either a Logistical Staging Area (LSA) to manage receiving/shipping functions for the efficient movement of supplies between other responding agencies or a Point Of Distribution (POD) that will receive supplies and then distribute them to citizens affected by the flooding associated with the weekend's storm.

True to its tactical nature as a self-sufficient, all-hazards response team, the IMT will be taking its own mobile command post, which has its own power supply, wi-fi and computer equipment, as well as its own food and water. The team will be deployed for at least two weeks.

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SCFC's Incident Management Team works regularly with various organizations on training events and real-world disasters, helping them to apply the principles of the Incident Command System framework. ICS is now widely adopted as the most effective organizational structure for both emergency situations and planned events. The only Type 2 IMT in the state, the Forestry Commission's team is the most highly qualified in the state.



Fifteen members of the Forestry Commission's Type II Incident Management Team departed Columbia for Texas early Tuesday morning; they will be joined by two additional members a day later.