



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Division of Fire and Life Safety

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For Immediate Release

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South Carolina Emergency Response Task Force to Conduct Training Exercise

An Operational Readiness Exercise is planned for Tuesday, April 10 through Friday, April 13 in Marion, Horry and Florence counties. The exercise is being conducted by the S.C. Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 in conjunction with local first responders.

During the exercise, local residents may see a convoy of emergency vehicles and related equipment. Base camp will be set up in Mullins.

“This exercise will enable us to perform real-life missions in case of an emergency deployment,” Ken Kerber, Assistant State Fire Marshal, said. “We will have 65 task force volunteers participating in a multitude of scripted emergency response events. We want to make sure the public knows what we are doing so they will not be concerned if they encounter our emergency vehicles and missions.”

Scripted events will include a collapsed building with entrapped victims in Marion, swift water search and rescue scenarios in the Florence area, rope rescue scenarios in the Horry County area, and wide-area search missions in the Mullins area.

“Our main objective is to test and evaluate the readiness and performance of the South Carolina Urban Search and Rescue Task Force,” he said.

The exercise will conclude by 1 p.m. Friday, April 13.

South Carolina’s State Urban Search and Rescue Task Force is part of ERTF and falls under the direction of the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation’s, Division of Fire and Life Safety.