

South Carolina  
Emergency Operations

# EXECUTIVE GUIDE



**SCEMD**

[scemd.org](http://scemd.org)

@SCEMD



## **Who We Are**

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division is a branch of the Military Department of South Carolina under the Adjutant General, but reports directly to and advises the Governor during major emergencies and disasters.

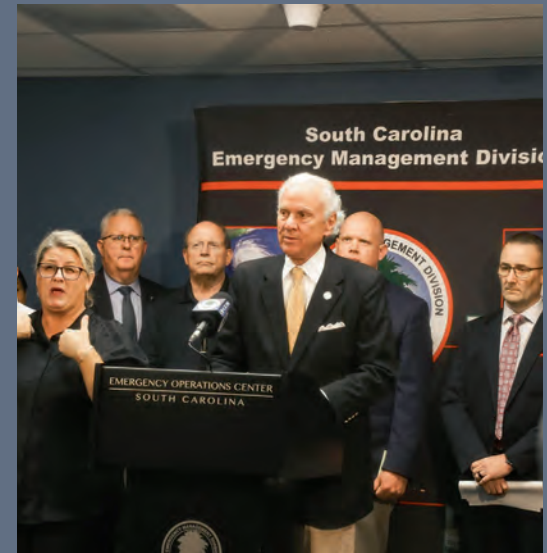
## **SCEMD's Vision**

To be an accomplished and innovative leader in emergency management that is ready, relevant, resilient, and responsive.

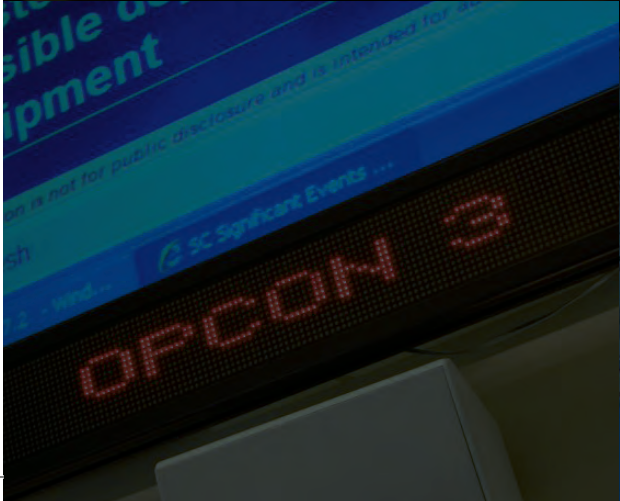
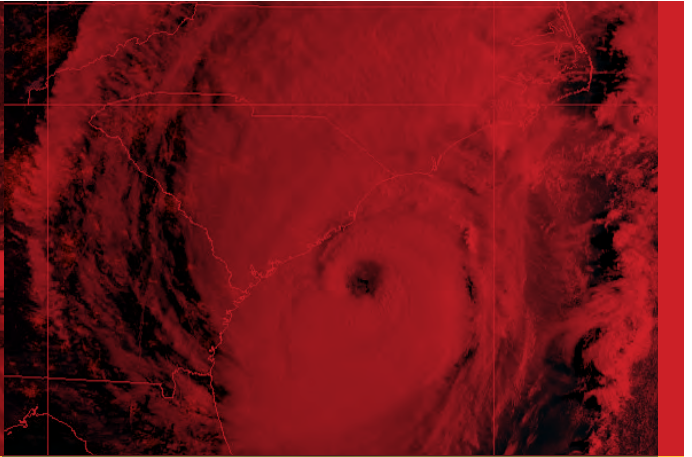
## **SCEMD's Mission**

SCEMD leads the state emergency management program by supporting local authorities to minimize the loss of life and property from all-hazard events.

# Response









# State Of South Carolina Operating Conditions

## **OPCON 1** (*RED*) **Full Alert**

A disaster or emergency is imminent or occurring. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is fully activated. All State Emergency Response Team personnel are activated or ready to deploy.

## **OPCON 2** (*YELLOW*) **Enhanced Awareness**

A disaster or emergency is likely to affect the state. Emergency operations plans are implemented. The State Emergency Operations Center is partially activated, if necessary.

## **OPCON 3** (*BLUE*) **Normal Daily Operations**

Agencies coordinate, plan, train and exercise as warranted. Incidents are monitored by the State Warning Point and local emergency managers.

# Phases of Emergency Management

**Preparedness:** Programs and systems that exist prior to an emergency and are used to support and enhance response and recovery operations. Planning, training, and exercising are among the activities conducted during this phase.

**Response:** Time-sensitive activities are undertaken to save lives and property and stabilize the situation so local jurisdictions can begin to recover. Response involves executing preparedness systems into action.

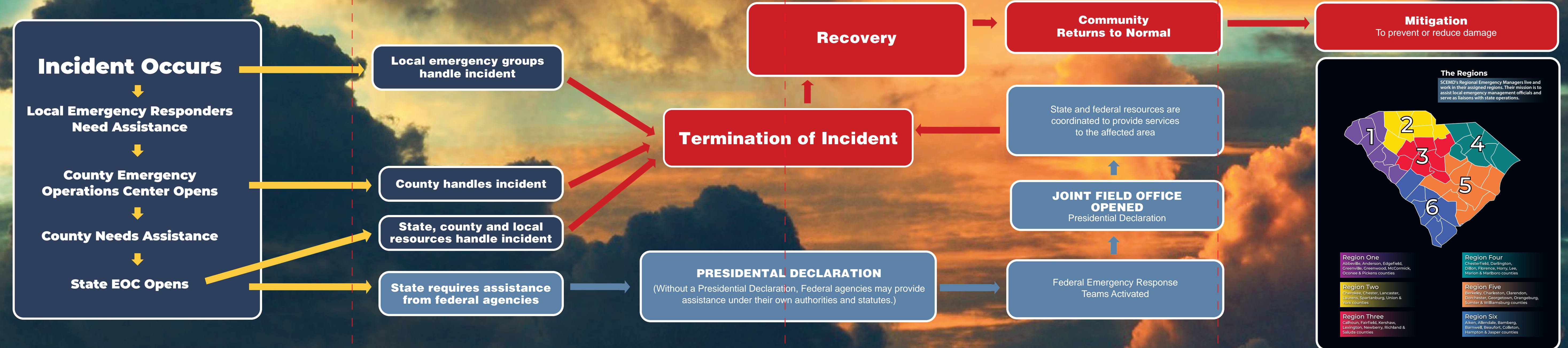
**Recovery:** The effort to restore infrastructure and return the social and economic life of a community to normal.

**Mitigation:** Activities that prevent an emergency, reduce the chance of an emergency happening, or reduce the damaging effects of unavoidable emergencies.

## Organizational Chart



# Incident Flow Chart







### ESF 10 – Environmental and Hazardous Materials Operations

*Coordinating Agency: Department of Environmental Services*

Coordinates, integrates, and manages efforts to detect, identify, contain, clean up, dispose of, or minimize releases of oil and hazardous substances.



### ESF 11 – Food Services

*Coordinating Agency: Department of Social Services*

Coordinates and identifies food requirements in disaster-affected areas.

Secures and distributes food products to include USDA food, to staging areas within impacted areas.



### ESF 12 – Energy

*Coordinating Agency: Office of Regulatory Staff*

Coordinates with the electrical and natural gas utilities to ensure the integrity of power supply systems is maintained during emergencies and that damage is reported and services restored in an efficient and expedient manner.



### ESF 13 – Law Enforcement

*Coordinating Agency: State Law Enforcement Division*

Provides for coordination and use of law enforcement personnel and equipment in a disaster or emergency for general law enforcement functions.



### ESF 14 – Initial Recovery and Mitigation

*Coordinating Agency: Emergency Management Division*

Coordinates federal, state, local government, and private sector recovery support and mitigates the consequences of a disaster in the future.



### ESF 15 – Public Information

*Coordinating Agency: Emergency Management Division*

Provides effective public information through coordination with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and organizations to minimize loss of life and property before, during, and after an emergency or disaster.



### ESF 16 – Emergency Traffic Management

*Coordinating Agency: Department of Public Safety*

Provides for coordinated plans, policies, and actions of state and local governments to ensure the safe and orderly evacuation of populations affected by all hazards. It also ensures that prompt and orderly re-entry into the evacuated area is accomplished once the threat or hazard no longer exists.



### ESF 17 – Agriculture and Animals

*Coordinating Agency: Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health*

Provides animal and plant emergency management and response before, during, and after disasters, including assistance at all levels to protect animal health, the animal and plant industry, and related public health issues.



### ESF 18 – Donated Goods and Volunteer Services

*Coordinating Agency: Department of Administration*

Coordinates the receipt, storage, and distribution of commodities donated by public and private sources and coordinates offers of assistance provided by private organizations without charge to the government while overseeing volunteer efforts to support these activities.



### ESF 19 – Military Support

*Coordinating Agency: South Carolina National Guard*

Provide state military support throughout South Carolina in times of a major or catastrophic disaster. Support is provided in response to mission tasking from the SEOC.



### ESF 24 – Business and Industry

*Coordinating Agency: Department of Commerce*

Coordinates interaction with private sector entities during disasters and emergencies. Encourages private businesses and industries to develop emergency response and recovery plans.

## State Laws and Regulations

1. South Carolina Constitution
2. South Carolina Code of Laws ann., 25-1-420 through 25-1-460
3. Regulation 58-1, Local government Preparedness Standards, S.C. Code of Regulations
4. Regulation 58-101, State Government Preparedness Standards, S.C. Code of Regulations
5. Governor's Executive Order #2023-11

## South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan

The South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan (SCEOP) is implemented by the Governor or his designated representative during situations when state assistance is needed by local governments. The SCEOP provides for the deployment of state assets either by a specific state agency in isolated incidents or through the plan's Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) concept of operations.

Upon activation of the Emergency Operations Plan, the State Emergency Response Team, comprised of ESFs and other personnel, assemble in the SEOC to coordinate the State's emergency response.

## Emergency Support Functions

### ESF 1 – Transportation

*Coordinating Agency: Department of Transportation*

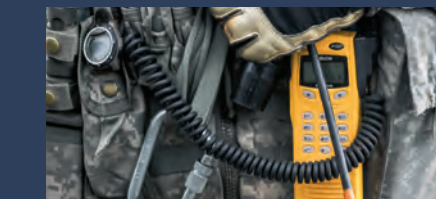
Coordinates the delivery of buses, trucks, drivers, aircraft, marine assets, and commercial/industrial transportation assets and provides information relating to transportation networks and evacuation routes.



### ESF 2 – Communications

*Coordinating Agency: Department of Administration*

Coordinates with all supporting and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations to ensure communication readiness during natural or man-made disasters.



### ESF 3 – Public Works and Engineering

*Coordinating Agency: South Carolina National Guard*

Coordinates the restoration of transportation infrastructures, water resources, and sewer facilities and coordinates immediate and continuous engineering resources, construction management, emergency contracting, and expertise following disasters.



### ESF 4 – Firefighting

*Coordinating Agency: Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety (Structural fires), Forestry Commission (Wildland fires)*

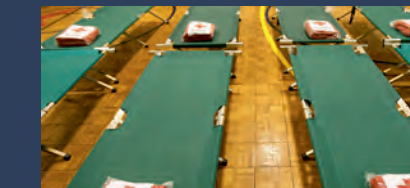
Coordinates and mobilizes fire services, resources, personnel, and equipment; also coordinates other state resources to support local government in the detection and suppression of urban, rural, and wildland fires.



### ESF 5 – Emergency Management

*Coordinating Agency: Emergency Management Division*

Collects, analyzes, and disseminates information to facilitate the overall response and recovery operations by state agencies and, if required, federal government entities.



### ESF 6 – Mass Care

*Coordinating Agency: Department of Social Services*

Coordinates and provides emergency shelter operations, first aid, bulk distribution centers, temporary housing, and victim information.



### ESF 7 – Finance and Administration

*Coordinating Agency: Emergency Management Division*

Develops procedures to evaluate, locate, procure, and deliver essential material and personnel resources upon request by state and local officials.



### ESF 8 – Health and Medical

*Coordinating Agency: Department of Public Health*

Coordinates the reassignment and delivery of medical personnel, equipment, and supplies from established government programs and coordinates the provision of private resources for the medical, psychological, and personal care of disaster victims.



### ESF 9 – Search and Rescue

*Coordinating Agency: Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety*

Provides assistance to local authorities for search and rescue operations anywhere in South Carolina.





## Preparedness

The Planning Section is responsible for the development, coordination, and maintenance of the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan, Hurricane Plan, Earthquake Plan, and other selected plans.

### South Carolina's Plans include:

- Dam Emergency Response Plan
- Emergency Refuel Plan
- Drought Response Plan
- Tsunami Response Plan
- Long-Term Power Outage Plan
- Cyber Incident Consequence Management Plan
- Winter Weather Plan
- Flood Response Plan



## Operations Support

The SCEMD Operations Support Section develops the statewide logistics plan and maintains the training and experience necessary to ensure requests for resources are answered as effectively as possible. Successful logistics during a widespread emergency depends on getting the right resources to the right people at the right time upon request. The Operations Support Section is responsible for SCEMD's Information Technology, Emergency Communication, Procurement, and Facilities Management at the State Emergency Operations Center.

The SCEMD Operations Support Section is also responsible for managing the State's 60-day personal protective equipment (PPE) stockpile. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 response, the State determined that the development and maintenance of this stockpile was necessary. These supplies are meant to support the State during the initial stages of a pandemic response or supply chain shortage of PPE.

SCEMD is South Carolina's lead office for implementing the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a nationwide mutual aid system that enables states to assist one another during emergencies. EMAC provides a streamlined and efficient framework for states to share resources, including personnel, equipment, and supplies, to support response and recovery efforts. Additionally, EMAC facilitates the transfer of services and coordination of virtual missions between states.



## Operations

The SCEMD Operations Section coordinates all operations to support the Incident Action Plans during an emergency activation. The Operations Section is divided into four subsections.

**State Warning Point**—This is the communications center for SCEMD. It is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and provides disaster-related communications support to emergency management personnel and partner agencies.

**Regional Emergency Managers**—South Carolina is divided into six regions managed by regional emergency managers. These managers serve as liaisons between local county emergency managers and SCEMD, support local operations, and relay information between the state and counties.

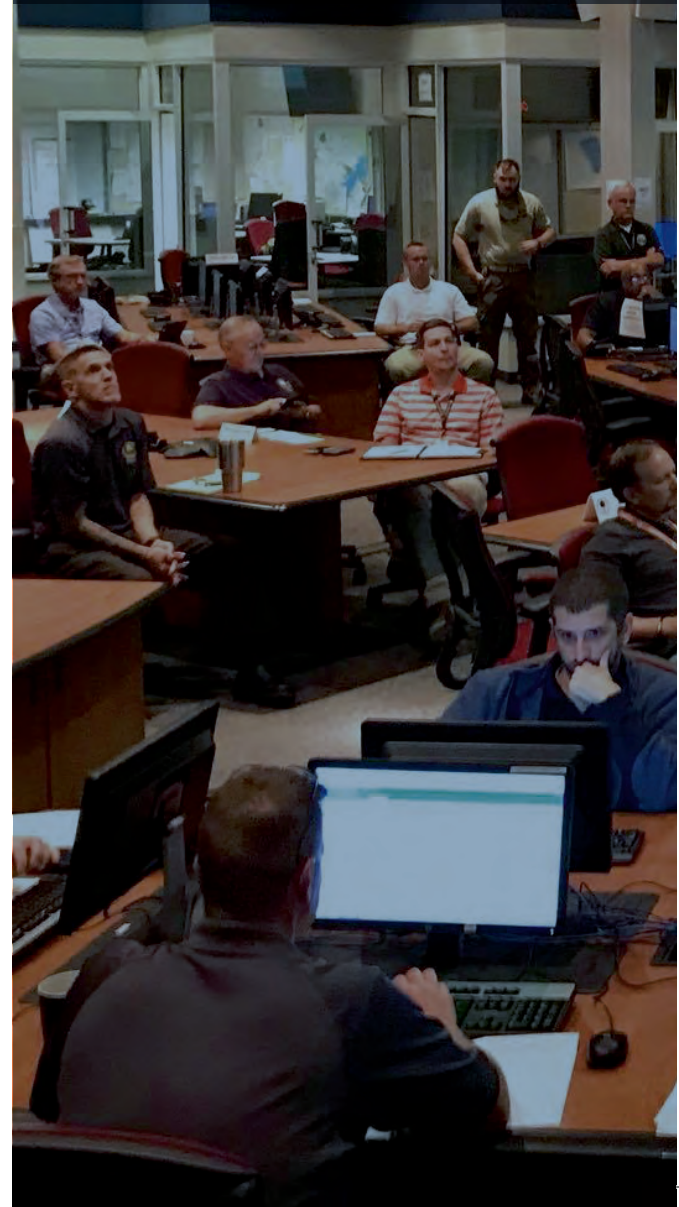
**Geospatial Information System**—This section also is responsible for SCEMD's Geospatial Information System (GIS). GIS is a powerful tool used to make maps and perform analysis for decision makers.

**State Operations**—Overseeing the operational readiness of the state emergency operations center and the resources used by the state emergency response team. Assists state ESF partners with the development of SEOC training and exercises.

## Recovery

Recovery is the cumulative efforts of local, state, and federal governments in conjunction with non-governmental organizations and private industries pooling financial and personnel resources to assist disaster-impacted communities with rebuilding infrastructure, reconstructing homes, providing housing, restoring health, social and community services, restoring natural and cultural services, and revitalizing the economy. Mitigation is the effort to reduce future risk and damage from identified hazards.

**With the latest technology and more than 7,500 square feet, the State Emergency Operations Center serves as the central coordination point for all major disaster response activities in South Carolina.**







## Federal Disaster Assistance Programs

If local and state government resources and capabilities are or may be exceeded by the impacts and needs of a disaster, the Governor may seek a federal emergency or disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The Governor's request is based on initial damage assessments validated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), unless an expedited request is warranted because of severity of damage.

If the President grants a major disaster declaration, multiple federal assistance programs can be made available including programs to assist survivors and to reimburse public sector response and recovery costs. The state Recovery Plan will be implemented, and the National Disaster Recovery Framework may be activated.

## Federal Laws and Regulations

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.  
44 Code of Federal Regulations §206  
Executive Order 13286- Department of Homeland Security National Incident Management System

## Individual Assistance

In disasters that do not receive a federal disaster declaration that includes Individual Assistance (IA), SCEMD works with county officials and non-profit organizations to coordinate goods and services for affected individuals and families. When a federal disaster is declared, and IA is authorized, affected individuals are directed to register with FEMA for funding to assist with eligible disaster-related needs. It is important to note that IA is not a substitute for insurance and cannot compensate for all losses caused by a disaster. It is intended to meet basic needs and supplement disaster recovery efforts. Another option that may be available through a request by the Governor is Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest loans for residents and businesses with disaster-caused damage.

## Public Assistance

State, county, and municipal government entities, federally recognized Native American tribes, and certain private non-profit organizations in counties covered by a federal disaster declaration can apply for assistance through the Public Assistance (PA) program. The PA program can cover reimbursement of costs for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repair, replacement, or restoration of damaged publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private non-profit organizations.

The process, which is governed by federal law and regulations, begins with the submission of a request for public assistance within 30 days of the federal declaration and identification of eligible work and costs; documentation to support costs is required. SCEMD recovery staff are available to assist with questions.

## Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Federal funding is available to help reduce or eliminate damages in future disasters. Mitigation funding is available on an ongoing basis through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program and post-disaster through the PA program Section 406 mitigation added to infrastructure repair projects and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Hazard Mitigation Assistance can include mitigation initiatives, plans, and structural mitigation projects such as drainage improvements, building retrofits, and elevation or acquisition of structures.

## Other Potential Mitigation Assistance:

- Flood Mitigation Assistance
- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- SC Safe Home Program
- Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)





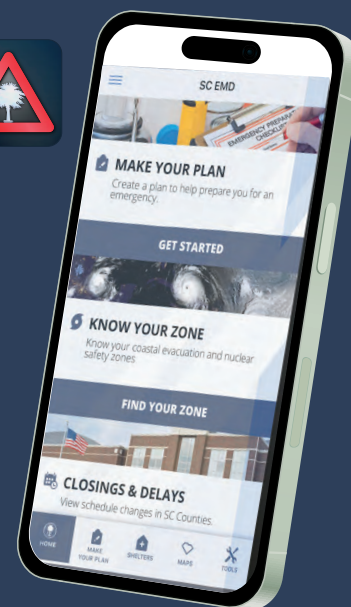
# Have a Plan. Stay Connected.

During day-to-day operations, **scemd.org** is the state's central resource for preparedness information, emergency planning resources, training opportunities, and more. During a disaster, when the state's emergency operations center is active, the website goes into "Emergency Mode," becoming the central point for all critical emergency information from local, state, and national partners. Information such as evacuation orders, shelter locations, recovery programs, and rebuilding resources will all be prominently displayed on the homepage of scemd.org in an easy-to-access format on any device.

## Your Personal Emergency Manager

The SC Emergency Manager mobile app is designed to be a personal emergency management tool for South Carolina residents. With the SC Emergency Manager, residents can build their own emergency plans, keep track of supplies, and stay connected to loved ones. Coastal residents and residents near nuclear power plants can now **"Know**

**Your Zone"** instantly using the maps feature as well as locate the nearest emergency shelters when they are open. The tools section features a flashlight, locator whistle, and the ability to report damage to emergency officials. The SC Emergency Manager can function without the need for a data connection, which is useful when basic utilities are offline. Available now in the Apple App Store and on Google Play.





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