

NJ-AHIMT Deployment to Puerto Rico as the Nation's First FEMA Supplemental Response Team

During the 2017 hurricane and wildfire seasons, with a record number of federal staff deployed in response operations, FEMA deployed All-Hazards Incident Management Teams (AHIMTs) totaling 30 State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) personnel from four states in support of federal operations. The After-Action Report following that season praised the use of AHIMTs as a success. However, it also highlighted improvements needed to develop the processes, procedures, and policies for integrating AHIMTs into the FEMA incident workforce. As a result, FEMA established the Supplemental Response Team (SRT) program office in 2020 to build, maintain, and deploy SLTT AHIMTs to supplement its incident workforce in disaster response operations.

FEMA's SRT program office develops, maintains, and deploys SLTT AHIMTs with all-hazards capabilities to support FEMA's incident workforce during response operations. The SRT program adds to FEMA's existing augmentation efforts by focusing on already established incident management teams instead of individuals.

The NJ All-Hazards Incident Management Team (NJ-AHIMT) was the first team nationally to be deployed under the SRT program when it deployed to Puerto Rico in September 2022 in response to Hurricane Fiona. The team provided assistance to FEMA operations by supporting one of the branches in Puerto Rico. This presentation will provide some background on the NJ-AHIMT, the Supplemental Response Team program, and the deployment itself.



Marc Pellegrino
Lieutenant
NJSP / NJOEM / NJ-AHIMT

Lt. Marc Pellegrino is an 18+ year member of the NJSP. He is currently assigned as the Unit Head of the All Hazards Incident Management Team Unit. The primary role of that unit is the manage and administer the State's Type 3 All-Hazards IMT. Lt. Pellegrino has been a member of the Emergency Management Section for over 13 years and has been assigned to multiple units in that time to include the Central and North Regions, the State Emergency Operations Center, the Urban Search and Rescue Unit, and currently the AHIMT Unit. His education includes a

M.A.S. degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University (with Graduate Certificate Programs in Emergency Management Administration and Homeland Security Administration) and a B.A. degree from Rutgers University. He is also a 20+ year volunteer firefighter and ex-chief of the department.



Rob Blackburn
Sargeant
NJSP / NJOEM / NJ-AHIMT

SFC Robert Blackburn is a 17-year member of the New Jersey State Police. He is currently assigned as the Assistant Unit Head of the All-Hazards Incident Management Team Unit. The primary role of that unit is the manage and administer the State's Type 3 All-Hazards IMT. SFC Blackburn has been a member of the Emergency Management Section for 2 years, and prior to that, assigned to the Field Operations Section. He has been deployed numerous times in response to a variety of incidents both within NJ and out of the state, to include EMAC and SRT deployments. His education includes B.S. degrees in Finance and Marketing from Montclair State University.