

Captain Robert T. Fulmer

Charleston Fire Department, Charleston, South Carolina

Captain Robert T. Fulmer serves as the Maritime Response Coordinator for the City of Charleston Fire Department in Charleston, South Carolina. In this role, he leads the department's Marine Team and coordinates the Charleston County Maritime Incident Response Team (MIRT), providing strategic leadership for regional all-hazards maritime preparedness, emergency response, training, and interagency coordination throughout the Port of Charleston.

With more than 22 years of fire service experience, Captain Fulmer has developed an extensive background in maritime emergency response, shipboard firefighting, rescue, hazardous materials, emergency medical services, and emergency incident management. He oversees specialized marine operations, policy development, training programs, budgeting, grant administration, and the operational readiness of personnel and marine assets. He works closely with local, state, federal, and private-sector partners to strengthen regional preparedness and ensure coordinated response capabilities across one of the nation's busiest ports.

Captain Fulmer holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Management with a concentration in Leadership from California Coast University. He has maintained a United States Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Credential for more than a decade and has spent the past 15 years leading maritime operations within the Charleston Fire Department's Marine Team, responding to hundreds of SAR

cases and maritime emergencies in the Charleston waterways. He has played a key role in developing Charleston's regional shipboard firefighting program, coordinating awareness- and operations-level training for hundreds of firefighters and helping advance the area to higher levels of maritime firefighting proficiency. He has also helped lead the acquisition and modernization of specialized marine response vessels and assisted Port Security

Grant initiatives that have significantly enhanced regional all-hazards preparedness and maritime response capabilities.

Captain Fulmer serves on numerous local, regional, and national maritime committees, including the Charleston Area Maritime Security Committee, the Salvage and Marine Firefighting Subcommittee, the Lowcountry Emergency Preparedness Committee, and the Port of Charleston Harbor Safety Committee. Through these partnerships, he has helped strengthen interoperability among the fire service, law enforcement, emergency management, the U.S. Coast Guard, and maritime industry stakeholders by advancing regional planning, training, and operational readiness.

As a panelist, Captain Fulmer brings the perspective of a local maritime response leader dedicated to building sustainable regional partnerships, advancing shipboard firefighting capabilities, and integrating all-hazards planning into everyday emergency response operations. His experience developing collaborative, multiagency response frameworks provides practical insight into the challenges and opportunities facing ports and maritime communities across the country.