



## **Autism Awareness Seminar for First Responders**

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With the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) now estimated by the Centers for Disease Control at one in 59 individuals, First Responders have a high likelihood of being called on to respond to an emergency situation involving a person with ASD. This type of developmental disorder affects a person's behavior, communication, and understanding of danger or consequences. It is estimated that individuals with autism will have seven times more contacts with First Responders during their lifetimes than the general population. Training to provide a practical understanding of ASD can mean the difference between safety and harm.

The South Carolina Fire Academy is partnering with the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs to provide a free one-day seminar, which will familiarize First Responders with characteristics of ASD and provide interaction and de-escalation strategies. All South Carolina fire service, law enforcement, EMS, and dispatchers are encouraged to attend.

## **Registration Information**

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South Carolina Fire Academy, Denny Auditorium

Friday, July 17, 2020

8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Fee: Free, lunch is on your own

Registration Link: 9021-21-001

<https://fire.llr.sc.gov/Portal/Registration/registration.aspx?crsidnt=69669>

Questions? Contact your regional coordinator.

## **About the Instructor**

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Andrea Walker is an Operations Consultant with the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. Ms. Walker has an M.A. in Counseling with advanced coursework in Applied Behavior Analysis. She has over 20 years of working with individuals with ASD and their families. She has worked extensively with professionals and communities to provide training in research based strategies and practices including Positive Behavior Supports, Applied Behavior Analysis, and alternative therapeutic approaches.

