

Hurricane Helene

October 8th Briefing



Hurricane Helene in Mecklenburg County

- Key Points

- 1 fatality in Mecklenburg County (09/27)
- 89 structures with water in the living space (10/08)

- Response

- 3 areas under evacuation orders
 - 2 voluntary: North Side of Mountain Island Lake; Allison Ferry Road
 - 1 mandatory: Riverside Dr – Riverhaven Dr
- Shelter opened at Tuckaseegee Recreation Center in partnership with American Red Cross

Public Warning and Alerts Timeline

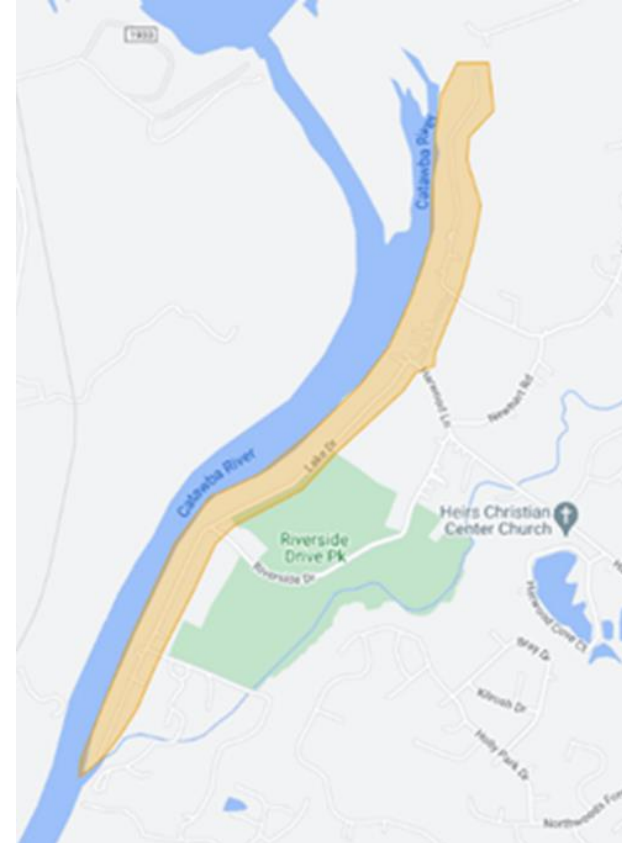
Tuesday 24 -Thursday 26

- Tuesday Sept 24
 - NWS: Severe Thunderstorm Warning
- Wednesday Sept 25
 - NWS: Severe Thunderstorm Warning
- Thursday Sept 26
 - 0800: EOC Activates
 - 0940: CharMeck Alert, Flash Flood Alert to Riverside for expected flooding
 - 0955: NWS Flash Flood Warning
 - 1000: Door to door, flyers and contact by CFD
 - 1159: NWS Flash Flood Warning
 - 1241: Additional CharMeck Alert, Flash Flood Alert
 - 1831: WEA, Voluntary Evacuation
 - 1845: WEA, Voluntary Evacuation Expanded
 - 1900: Reception Center Established, Shelter Requested from ARC
 - 2100 Tornado Watch

Public Warning and Alerts Timeline

Thursday September 26th

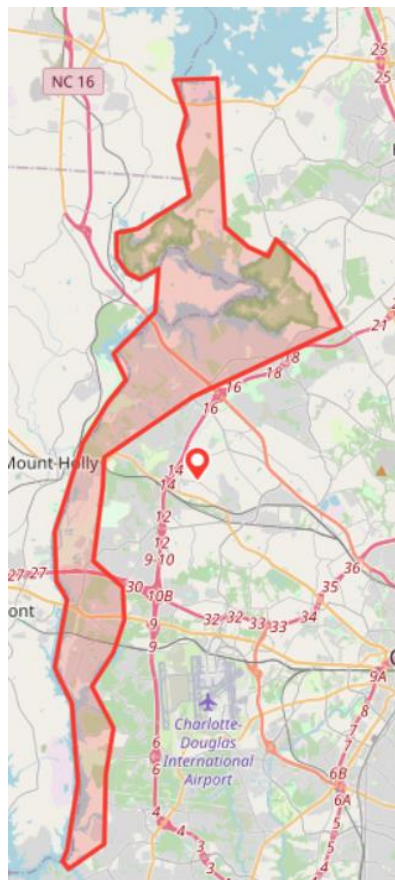
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Map of voluntary evacuation zone on Riverside Dr.

Public Warning and Alerts Timeline

Friday September 27th

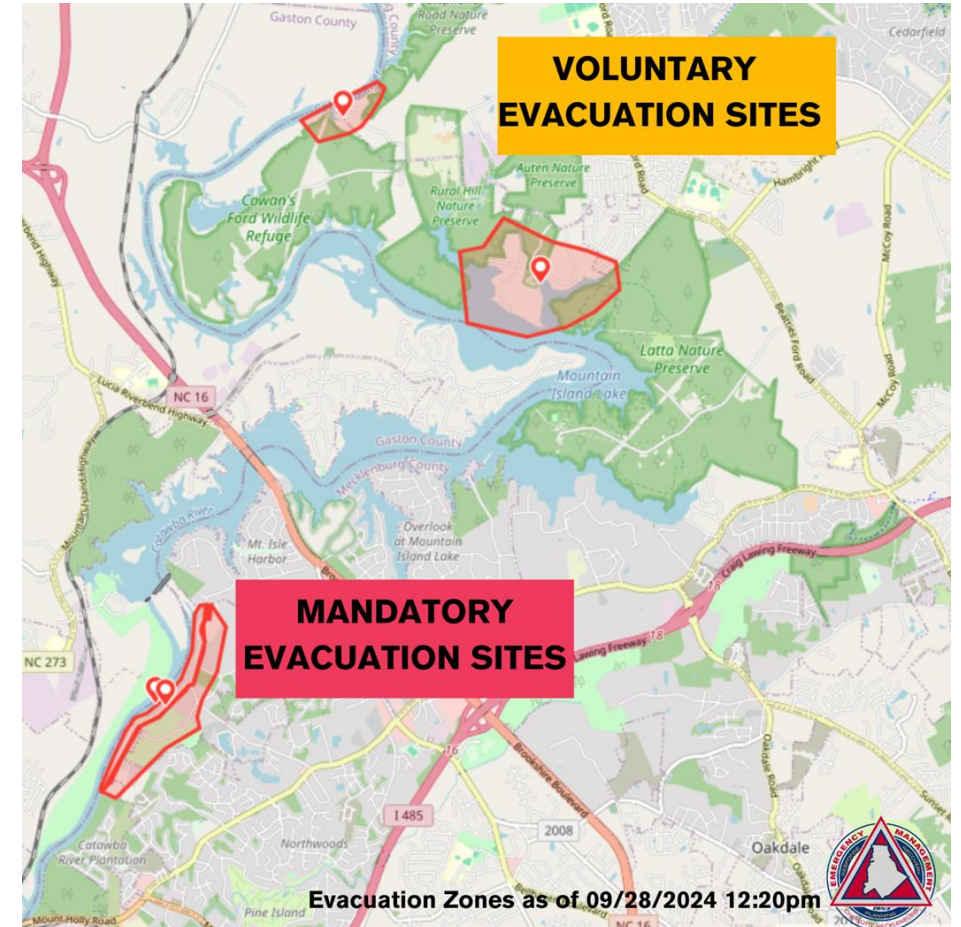


- 0305: NWS, Flash Flood Warning
- 0438: NWS, Flash Flood Warning
- 0559: NWS, Flash Flood Warning
- 0611: WEA, Mandatory Evacuation
- 0806: CharMeck Alert for entire County
- 0808: NWS Tornado Watch
- 1027: WEA, Flash Flood Imminent
- 1357: WEA, Flash Flood Imminent
- 1628: WEA, Lake Wylie and Lake Norman
- 1717: WEA, Mtn Island Lake
- 1939: WEA Overnight Advisory

Public Warning and Alerts Timeline

Saturday, September 28

- 2206: CharMeck Alert for continued flooding along the Catawba
- CFD conducted on-going rescues along the Catawba



Aftermath



Mecklenburg County Major Disaster Declaration

Mecklenburg County Now Listed on FEMA Disaster Declaration

Mecklenburg County, NC (Oct. 7, 2024) – Mecklenburg County residents are now eligible for Individual Assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Homeowners and renters who had uninsured damage as a result of Hurricane Helene can apply for FEMA disaster assistance.

This funding can help with needs including displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repairs, and personal property loss. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses that are covered by insurance. The fastest way to apply is online at DisasterAssistance.gov. [Residents can also apply via the FEMA App, or by calling 800-621-3362.](#)

Applicants will need:

- A current phone number where you can be contacted.
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying.
- Your Social Security number.
- A general list of damage and losses.
- Banking information if you choose direct deposit.
- If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the company name.

For information on what actions are eligible for FEMA assistance visit the [FEMA Individuals and Households Program website](#). [For additional details about North Carolina's recovery, visit \[fema.gov/disaster/4827\]\(https://fema.gov/disaster/4827\).](#) For additional details about Mecklenburg County's recovery efforts, visit cltgov.me/recovery.

Recovery Efforts

- Completed
 - Community Cleanup: 120 volunteers from dozen different churches and nonprofits
 - Donation Drive: over 10,000 items donated and cataloged
- In Progress
 - Emergency Management
 - Setting up Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in conjunction with FEMA
 - Team Rubicon volunteers active to support residents in the next few weeks
 - Other County Partners
 - Parks and Recreation: bringing staff and heavy machinery to assist residents
 - Stormwater: Staff onsite to answer resident questions
 - Code Enforcement: Staff onsite to answer resident questions



Western North Carolina Updates

An aerial photograph showing a town in Western North Carolina that has been severely impacted by flooding. A large multi-lane highway bridge is collapsed in the center of the image, with its concrete and steel structure partially submerged in muddy, turbulent floodwaters. The surrounding area is inundated, with houses, commercial buildings, and trees surrounded by water. Debris is scattered throughout the flooded areas. In the background, a large university campus with several large buildings is visible, also partially surrounded by floodwaters. The sky is overcast, and the overall scene depicts significant destruction and infrastructure damage.

Taken from Asheville: courtesy of CNN

Update from Western North Carolina



State Emergency Response Team
20240924 Tropical System Helene
Executive Summary #26
8 October 2024 1000



Lifeline Summary

Safety and Security

- 15 county EOCs are activated: Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey.
- 25 county States of Emergency (SOE) and 52 municipality SOEs have been declared (see attached county SOE map).
- There are currently 440 fire personnel with 78 engines and 499 EMS personnel with 253 ambulances actively engaged. Immediate life saving resources will begin to demobilize where no longer needed.
- NC National Guard (NCNG) continues to support with 3,300 total active-duty personnel, 2,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen, and over 1,300 Title 10 soldiers deployed. Forces are being used for distribution, aid and road clearance operations. This includes a recent delivery of high priority insulin to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
- Avery, Haywood, Henderson, Mitchell, Watauga (including Boone and Blowing Rock), and Yancey counties continue to maintain curfews.
- FEMA continues working to complete site inspections to open Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Alleghany, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Mitchell, Mecklenburg, Polk, Swain, and Watauga counties. Buncombe and McDowell county locations are expected to open this week.
- 14 counties have schools that are closed. 10 WNC colleges remain closed.

Food, Water, and Sheltering

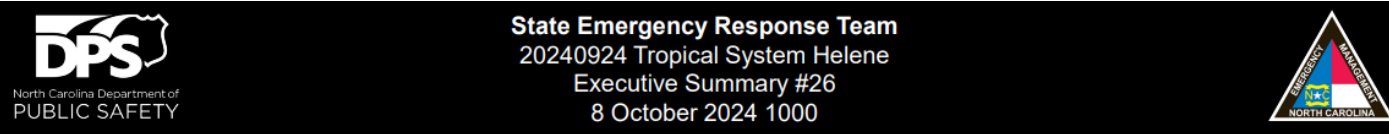
- 17 shelters are open with a total of 737 occupants and 106 pets. There are currently 3 State Operated Shelters in Buncombe (2), and Rowan (1) counties. Shelter operations in Rowan County are in the process of demobilizing.
- Operations continue to open an additional State Operated Shelter in Caldwell County. Once operational, occupants from Rowan County are expected to this location.
- 3 mass feeding sites (Buncombe, McDowell, and Watauga counties) continue delivering meals to approximately 42 sites across 12 counties. Over 20,000 hot meals are served each day through efforts of the Mass Feeding Task Force. Additional feeding sites, either fixed or delivery, can be requested through WebEOC.
- It is estimated that over 360,000 meals have been provided to impacted communities through the combined feeding efforts of partners and self-deployed feeding sites.
- To date, over 123,000 individuals have registered for FEMA Individual Assistance. There has been over \$37 million approved and over \$32 million disbursed to survivors.
- The Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program is currently supporting over 2,600 individuals in hotel rooms.

Health and Medical

- Teams are reporting completion of hasty, primary and secondary searches across many affected counties, meaning that these areas are considered 100% searched. Search and rescue continues within 5 counties which are nearly complete with these efforts.
- There are 2 State Medical Support Shelters with a population of 22 patients.
- A 10-person support team will be arriving tomorrow, 8 October, via EMAC to support public health operations.
- 84 storm related fatalities have been reported. Additional staff are expected to assist with fatality management planning.

- 15 county EOCs activated
- 25 county States of Emergency
- 3300 NC National Guard personnel deployed
- 17 shelters with 737 occupants
- 84 fatalities

Update from Western North Carolina



Lifeline Summary

Energy (Power and Fuel)

- Power outages remain concentrated in western NC with the highest being reported in Buncombe, Henderson, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.

Communications

- All TERT requests have been filled to organize 911 staffing throughout the impacted counties and partners are beginning to look into future staffing needs.
- PSAPs remain stable and are improving. 2 PSAPs remain routed to alternate locations but all 911 calls continue to be answered.
- 7 VIPER sites remain on generator power.
- Messaging continues regarding the importance of avoiding damage to temporary fiber. Damaged fiber lines can be reported by texting FIBER to 41444.

Transportation

- There are at least 630 roads that remain closed due to flooding, trees, and downed power lines. This number will fluctuate as connectivity is restored and reporting improves.
- There are over 2,000 Department of Transportation employees responding to the storm with more than 1,100 pieces of heavy equipment in the affected area.
- NCDOT Rail is coordinating to ensure oversize/overweight permits are issued to railroad contractors for movement of equipment to begin repairs.

Hazardous Materials

- There are 33 active debris sites which are active with more pending review and approval.
- The Waste Transfer Station is in operation in Buncombe County.
- Through site assessments, NCDEQ and EPA are reporting large amounts of contamination and are encourage responders to wear appropriate PPE.

Water Systems

- There are 84 potable water systems on boil water advisories, and of these, 48 systems need bacteria results to clear the advisory. Additionally, 14 systems have no power, 52 are operating on backup power, and 26 systems are out water.
- There are 53 wastewater treatment plants in the affected area that are operating under normal operations. Additionally, 28 wastewater treatment plants are partially operational or operating on back-up power.
- The wastewater treatment plant supporting the community of Summit Lake was restored yesterday, 7 October.
- NC WaterWARN has provided 21 crews, 32 pieces of equipment, 4 generators, 76 staff and 33 trucks in support of restoration efforts.
- NC DEQ Division of Water Resources has coordinated with EPA Region 4 to station a mobile lab in Buncombe County to process free Total coliforms and E. coli required to lift boil water advisories.

- 630 roads remain closed
- I-40 is closed indefinitely in both directions for 43 miles between exit 432 in Tennessee and exit 20 in North Carolina

Mecklenburg County Supports WNC

- Charlotte Fire Department
 - Deployed teams to help respond to calls and telecommunicators to assist 911 centers
- CMPD
 - Deployed teams to Asheville to assist local law enforcement
- Mecklenburg Sheriff's Office
 - Deployed teams to WNC to assist local law enforcement
- Charlotte Water
 - Deployed crews to assist in reestablishing potable water in rural communities



Monetary Donations

- North Carolina Disaster Assistance Fund: nc.gov/donate
- American Red Cross: redcross.org/donate/dr/hurricane-helene
- United Way of NC: unitedwaync.org
- Community Foundation of Western North Carolina: cfwnc.org
- Manna Food Bank Asheville: mannafoodbank.org
- Samaritans Purse: samaritanspurse.org/disaster/hurricane-helene
- Operation Air Drop: operation-airdrop.com/hurricane-helene

Challenges

- Short term and long-term housing
 - Especially during winter months
- Electricity
- Long term Road Closures
 - I-40 remains closed
- Transportation for residents in rural communities