

Hurricane Helene

Situation Report #1 | Friday, September 27, 2024 | 4:00 PM EDT

REPORT DISTRIBUTION:

Public

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Incident Summary

As of 2:00 PM EDT, Helene is located approximately 125 miles south-southeast of Louisville, Kentucky. Helene is a tropical depression with present movement north-northwest at 35 miles per hour and maximum sustained winds of 35 miles per hour. The eye of Helene made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane near Perry, Florida around 11:10 PM September 26, just east of the mouth of the Aucilla River. Helene is forecasted to slow down in forward speed, and the depression is forecasted to stall over the Tennessee Valley tonight and through the weekend.

Strong gusts of wind continue as far inland as the higher terrain of the southern Appalachians and off the coast of South Carolina but are expected to subside by this evening. Rainfall accumulation totals from 6-12 inches, with isolated totals of 20 inches are expected throughout portions of the southeastern U.S. into the southern Appalachians. Rainfall will likely result in catastrophic and potentially life-threatening flash and urban flooding, along with river flooding and numerous landslides across steep terrain in the southern Appalachians.

Electricity Sector Summary

- As of 3:00 PM EDT, September 27, 4.68 million customers are reported without power. Four states have over 800,000 outages, including Florida with approximately 840,000 outages (8% of customers), Georgia with approximately 994,000 outages (21% of customers), South Carolina utilities with approximately 1,237,000 outages (43% of customers), and North Carolina utilities with approximately 896,000 outages (18% of customers).
- Initial restoration efforts have begun in some affected states. Utilities are experiencing widespread flooding and debris impeding access. Crews are unable to operate in heavily flooded areas and when wind speeds are greater than 30 MPH.
- Utilities in the southeast region made preparations prior to Helene, including pre-staging personnel, materials, and equipment. At least 50,000 personnel from 27 states and the District of Columbia are strategically prepositioned to respond to power outages in the Southeast.

Oil and Natural Gas Sector Summary

- The Ports of Tampa, Manatee, Jacksonville, Canaveral, and Panama City were closed in preparation for Hurricane Helene. Savannah is restricting inbound and outbound traffic.
- U.S. offshore operators currently have shut-in 24% of Gulf of Mexico oil production and 18% of natural gas production from pre-Helene levels.

ELECTRICITY SECTOR

Overview of Impacts

Hurricane Helene Customer Power Outages				
As of 3:00 PM EDT 9/27/24				
State	Current Outages	% State Without Power	Peak Storm Outages	% Restored from Peak
Florida	839,895	7.6%	1,323,821	36.5%
Georgia	993,573	20.5%	1,100,015	9.7%
South Carolina	1,237,010	43.2%	1,372,295	9.9%
North Carolina	896,206	17.6%	--	--
Tennessee	105,934	3.7%	--	--
Virginia	231,499	5.9%	--	--
Kentucky	217,629	9.7%	--	--
West Virginia	82,946	9.7%	--	--
Ohio	83,199	1.6%	--	--



Emergency Declarations and Waivers

To provide vital supplies and transportation services to a disaster area in the United States, emergency declarations may be issued by the President, Governors of States, or the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). These declarations trigger the temporary suspension of certain Federal safety regulations, including Hours of Service, for motor carriers and drivers engaged in specific aspects of the emergency relief effort. See [49 CFR 390.23](#) for the actual emergency regulation.

Emergency Declarations and Hours of Service Transportation Waivers				
As of 3:00 PM EDT 09/27/2024				
State/Territory	Details	Effective Dates		Status
		Start	End	
Florida	<u>State of Emergency for 61 counties</u>	9/23	11/22	Active
Florida	<u>Hours of Service Waiver</u>	9/23	11/22	Active
Florida	<u>Presidential Declaration of Emergency</u>	9/23	Until Rescinded	Active
Georgia	<u>State of Emergency</u>	9/24	10/2	Active
South Carolina	<u>State of Emergency</u>	9/25	10/10	Active
North Carolina	<u>State of Emergency</u>	9/25	10/25	Active
Virginia	<u>State of Emergency</u>	9/25	11/9	Active
Kentucky	<u>State of Emergency</u>	9/24	10/8	Active
Tennessee	<u>State of Emergency</u>	9/27	Until Rescinded	Active

Sources: State government & federal government websites

