

Hurricane Helene

Situation Report #4 | Monday, September 30, 2024 | 9:00 AM EDT

REPORT DISTRIBUTION:

Public

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Incident Summary

The eye of Helene made landfall at 11:10 PM EDT on September 26 as a Category 4 Hurricane with maximum wind speeds of 140 mph near Perry, Florida just east of the mouth of the Aucilla River. Helene weakened as it moved north through the Southeastern United States September 27-28, impacting parts of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana. The storm brought strong winds and heavy rainfall, which caused flooding in some states.

Electricity Sector Summary

- As of 8:00 AM EDT, September 30, approximately 2.1 million customers are without power, down more than 54% from the region-wide peak of 4.6 million on September 27. Ten states are experiencing significant power outages from the storm, including outages affecting approximately 760,000 customers in South Carolina (27% of total state customers), 556,000 customers in Georgia (12%), 458,000 customers in North Carolina (19%), and 119,000 customers in Florida (1%).
- Restorations are underway across the affected states; however, utilities in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina expect to be undergoing repairs through the week.
- Restoration efforts after Helene will be a complex, multi-day effort in many locations due to the extent of damage and ongoing access issues. Utilities have been encountering widespread flooding and debris impeding access to damaged infrastructure. Communications disruptions are also impacting restoration efforts.
- Utilities in the Southeast region made preparations prior to Helene, including pre-staging personnel, materials, and equipment. At least 50,000 personnel from 34 states and the District of Columbia and Canada are responding to power outages in the Southeast and Appalachia.

Oil and Natural Gas Sector Summary

- The Port of Panama City was open as of September 29. The Port of Tampa and Seaport Manatee are open with restrictions.
- Approximately 3% of Gulf of Mexico oil and 1% of Gulf of Mexico natural gas production remained shut in as of September 29, down from peak shut-ins of 29% and 20%, respectively.
- Power outages throughout the affected region may be impacting operations at retail fuel stations, bulk terminals, pipelines, and other oil and natural gas infrastructure.

Hurricane Helene Customer Power Outages				
As of 8:00 AM EDT 9/30/24				
State	Current Outages	% State Without Power	Peak Storm Outages	% Restored from Peak
Florida	119,338	1%	1,323,821	91%
Georgia	556,495	11.5%	1,100,015	49.4%
South Carolina	760,068	26.6%	1,372,295	44.6%
North Carolina	457,608	19%	1,004,273	54.4%
Tennessee	10,628	<1%	128,592	91.7%
Virginia	97,133	2.5%	243,827	60.2%
Kentucky	20,514	<1%	226,810	91%
West Virginia	26,793	2.7%	91,399	70.7%
Ohio	31,927	<1%	330,464	90.3%
Indiana	8,597	<1%	114,114	92.5%
TOTAL	2,089,101			



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 8:00 AM EDT 09/30/2024				
State/Territory	Details	Effective Dates		Status
		Start	End	
Florida	State of Emergency for 61 counties	9/23	11/22	Active
	Hours of Service Waiver	9/23	11/22	Active
	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/23	Until Rescinded	Active
Alabama	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/22	Until Rescinded	Active
Georgia	State of Emergency	9/24	10/2	Active
	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/24	Until Rescinded	Active
South Carolina	State of Emergency	9/25	10/10	Active
	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/25	Until Rescinded	Active
North Carolina	State of Emergency	9/25	10/25	Active
	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/24	Until Rescinded	Active
	Major Disaster Declaration	9/25	Until Rescinded	Active
Virginia	State of Emergency	9/25	11/9	Active
Kentucky	State of Emergency	9/24	10/8	Active
Tennessee	State of Emergency	9/27	Until Rescinded	Active
	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/26	Until Rescinded	Active
West Virginia	State of Preparedness	9/26	Until Rescinded	Active

Sources: State government & federal government websites